SC orders Badoy to explain TV interview

STORY ON PAGE A2

Israeli gunships attack Arafat's headquarters

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli helicopter gunships attacked Yasser Arafat's headquarters in this West Bank town on Tuesday after Israel's Cabinet declared the Palestinian Authority a supporter of terrorism.

Three missiles slammed just a few meters from the Palestinian leader's office. Arafat was present during the attack, but was not injured.

Palestinian security officials fled the com-

ISRAELI/ A4

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2001 ★★ 76 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 360 ₱15

Ador Mawanay is baaack

By C. Herrera

AS they say in the horror movie "Poltergeist," he's baaack.

Whistle-blower Angelo "Ador" Mawanay said it was

ADOR/ A5

AT SAKA...
ANO KAYA ANG ENDING NG STORY NA YAN?

Serge O: Gloria knew of ransom

Osmeña plane borrowed to deliver ₱17M

VALHANDUMON

SEN. SERGIO OSMEÑA III: Counting ways ransom was divided; P10M for Abu, P5M for military, P2M for local officials.

By C. D. Balana, D. Pazzibugan, M. Marfil and R. Nazareno

"*BAKA mapahiya siya* (She might lose face)."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said President Macapagal-Arroyo could end up red-faced once he takes up her spokesperson's challenge for him to name the government officials who allegedly brokered a P17-million ransom for the release of businessman Reghis Romero II from the Abu Sayyaf.

Osmeña told Senate reporters yesterday that the President, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez all knew of the ransom payment.

Asked why he was singled out to facilitate the delivery of the alleged ransom, Osmeña explained that he owned a single-engine plane. "Saranggola ni Serge," it was called during his last senatorial campaign.

Any of the five airstrips in Basilan can accommodate only a single-engine plane.

Someone, whom the senator refused to name, approached him to borrow his plane and personal pilot to deliver a package of medicines for Romero. He has never met Romero. Skeptical about the package, he finally had to be told that it was ransom money for the release of Romero and two others. He was informed that the plane was going to make three trips to Basilan to deliver the money. The route was for Osmeña's plane to fly from Cebu City where it was parked to Zamboanga City.

"As it turned out, my plane was only used as a backup plane. It just stayed in Zamboanga. I don't know why," he recounted to the INQUIRER last night.

After Romero reportedly escaped, "I was asked again if my plane could transport him to Manila. It's not gonna make it all the way to Manila, I told them. My plane is only for short hops. I said tell the Palace to send a C-130 for Romero," he recalled.

"When I received the call about Romero, I was in the presence of Senator (Blas) Ople, Kit Tatad, Mike

SERGE/ A18

Prison's ready, but where's Nur Misuari?

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Christian Esguerra and Martin Marfil

WHAT do ousted President Joseph Estrada and ousted ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari have in common?

The detention facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Built especially for Estrada inside a police training camp, the Sta. Rosa bungalow is reportedly among the sites that the military and police are looking at as a possible detention site for Misuari.

Fort Magsaysay, the headquarters of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, is also being considered.

But where is Misuari who faces rebellion charges for the Nov. 19 attack in Jolo, Sulu?

The government has asked Malaysia to detain him for the time being until the security situation in Mindanao has stabilized.

Malaysian police had arrested Misuari for illegal entry when he fled to Sabah late last month.

PRISON'S/ A4

THAT'S my man, President Macapagal appears very pleased with the election of her candidate for ARMM governor, Dr. Parouk Hussin, who takes his oath at the Palace on Tuesday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

No proof to pin down Medel, say PNP probers

By TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

POLICE investigators yesterday officially admitted that there was no shred of forensic evidence to pin down Philip Medel Jr. for the Nov. 7 killing of actress Nida Blanca.

Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, chief of the Philippine National Police's Crime Laboratory, said that DNA tests conducted on the paring knife and the clothes that Medel supposedly used in the killing yielded nothing.

"The knife was already clean when it was presented to us. The clothes have been washed and the bloodstains were no longer visible. So these were negative for bloodstains," Pedregoza told reporters.

He said even the DNA tests on

NO/ A6

After months of hype, Segway scooter unveiled

NEW YORK—After months of hype—some of it true, some of it false—inventor Dean Kamen formally unveiled the Segway Human Transporter, to applause on ABC Network's "Good Morning America" program.

Kamen and his backers have big hopes for the agile Segway, a one-person, gyroscope-packed, battery-powered scooter, saying it will displace awkward, polluting cars from inner cities, leading to a realigned cityscape that is more people-friendly.

The Segway "will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy," Kamen told Time magazine for Monday's edition. "Cars are great for going long distances. But it makes no sense at all for people in cities to use a 1,800-kilogram piece of metal..."

AFTER/ A5

Danding: I was only a witness to signing of coco levy deal

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. yesterday issued a statement denying allegations that he would benefit from the proposed compromise settlement of the coco levy funds brokered by newspaper publisher Dante Ang, a friend of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I wish to deny insinuations and loose talk that I will personally benefit from the so-called 'agreement' reached between different farmers' groups regarding the coconut levy funds," he said in a two-page statement.

Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp., issued the statement a day after Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), rejected the settlement as it would benefit not small farmers and workers but Cojuangco, Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Yorac called the deal illegal and immoral.

"My participation in the meeting among these groups at the residence of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla was limited to the witnessing of the signing of a covenant to find solutions to the plight of small coconut farmers and the coconut industry," Cojuangco said.

"I believe these groups are representative of the beneficiaries of

DANDING/ A18

'Interim formula' sought to free coco funds

By Donna S. Cueto, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Juliet L. Javellana

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) is now pushing for an "interim formula" that seeks to release money from P130 billion in coco levy funds directly to coconut farmers instead of through farmers' organizations.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza yesterday said that Malacañang was supporting the "interim formula" after the PCGG rejected a compromise settlement brokered by Dante Ang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal publicist.

The interim formula provides two conditions.

"First, it must be consistent with the legal position of the PCGG that the funds are public funds," Carranza said.

"Second, it will lead to the release of a portion of the funds under litigation to small coconut farmers as a class of people rather than by organization," he said.

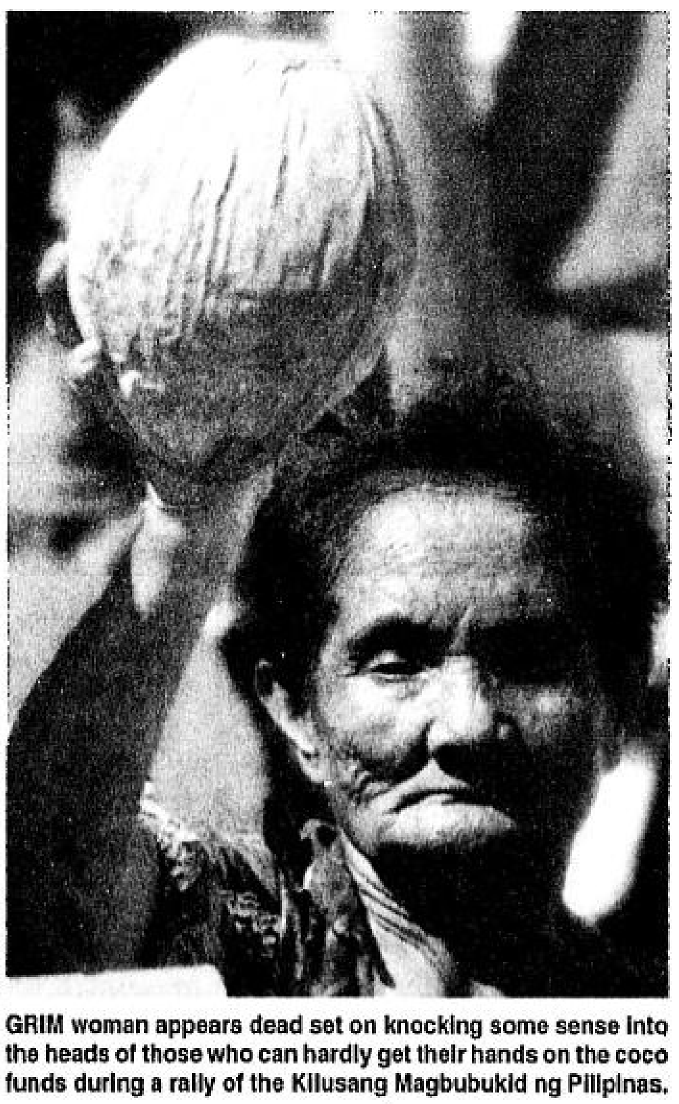
Carranza said Malacañang's support for the formula was affirmed during the meeting between PCGG officials and Ms Macapagal on Monday.

He said the interim formula was a victory for small coconut farmers, who do not belong to any organization, and a defeat for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, defendants in a coco levy case filed with the Sandiganbayan.

Cojuangco, chair of the San Miguel Corp., and Lobregat, head of the Philippine Federation of Coconut Producers (Cocofed), are pushing for a settlement that would characterize the funds as private.

Lobregat also wants Cocofed not

INTERIM/ A18



ERIK ARAZAS

GRIM woman appears dead set on knocking some sense into the heads of those who can hardly get their hands on the coco funds during a rally of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Second FRONT PAGE

PAKI-EKSPLIKA NGA!

US defense exec visits Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

UNITED States Defense Assistant Secretary Peter Brooks yesterday met President Macapagal-Arroyo for a follow through on defense commitments made by his government during the President's working visit to the US.

President Macapagal said a concrete example of this is her scheduled commissioning today at the Sangley naval base in Cavite of a Navy cutter given by the US government.

The President also said she and Brooks talked about the training by American experts of a military "light reaction company" in Zamboanga City so this unit "will be closer to the action."

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Brooks' visit is just the start of a series of visits to be made by senior American government officials following Ms Macapagal's trip to the US.

Tiglao said these officials will "coordinate with our officials on the implementation of agreements" between the two government.

SANCTIONS POISED

SC tells Badoy: Explain TV call

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. to explain why he went to a television station for a live interview on Nov. 29.

Speaking through Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno, the high court gave Badoy a "non-extendible period" of five days to explain why he should not be sanctioned for conduct unbecoming a Sandiganbayan justice.

Badoy, chair of the anti-graft court's third division, which is trying former President Joseph Estrada for plunder, had gone to GMA-7 on an ambulance for an interview.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had put a gag order on Badoy and Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena in their "word war." The high court later suspended Garchitorena for a different reason—a huge backlog of cases in his division.

Under the SC rules, conduct unbecoming a justice has corresponding administrative penalties ranging from warning and reprimand to suspension and even dismissal.

In the live interview on the news program "Saksi," he reported the theft of a resolution in connection with the Estrada plunder trial, an event that exposed Badoy to sarcasm and ridicule, the SC said.

'Wild chase'

The high court further said that media personnel also described the commotion that erupted inside the station complex as a "wild chase when they sought Justice Badoy for an interview."

Early in the day, Badoy's daughter Christine Sanchez said her father was due to check into an undisclosed hospital to get some rest.

However, to the surprise of media men who were tailing Badoy, the ambulance went straight to the GMA-7 network center.

Enraged over the decision of Badoy to grant its rival television network an exclusive interview, ABS-CBN-2 officials on the same night decided to interview SC spokesperson Ismael Khan on the phone.

Asked if the high court would sanction Badoy for allegedly deceiving mediamen when he boarded an ambulance to GMA-7, Khan said he was not in a position to speak for the whole high tribunal, which is a collegial body.

Administrative penalties

Sought for comment yesterday, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he was apprehensive that the SC order might result in the imposition of administrative penalties on Badoy.

"If that's the case, then the trial of Estrada will be affected," he said.

Desierto urged Badoy to immediately comply with the order and "explain his actuations."

"There must be a prompt compliance so that the Estrada proceedings will not be affected," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman stressed that Badoy who handles three cases against Estrada—illegal use of alias, perjury and plunder—should justify why he went to GMA-7 complex in an ambulance.

Media ban

Desierto said a standing SC order banned both Badoy and Garchitorena from giving media interviews.

"The order does not only refer to matters concerning the Badoy-Garchitorena word war," said Desierto, "but the spirit of the order can be interpreted to cover all incidents in relation to the internal affairs of the office."

The SC last week relieved Garchitorena of his duties, powers and functions as the anti-graft court's presiding justice and chair of the First Division for his failure to decide on cases submitted for resolution, including those filed 10 years ago.

He was given six months to finish resolving the cases, but his relief is for an indefinite period.

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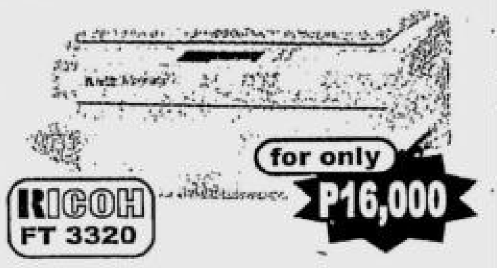

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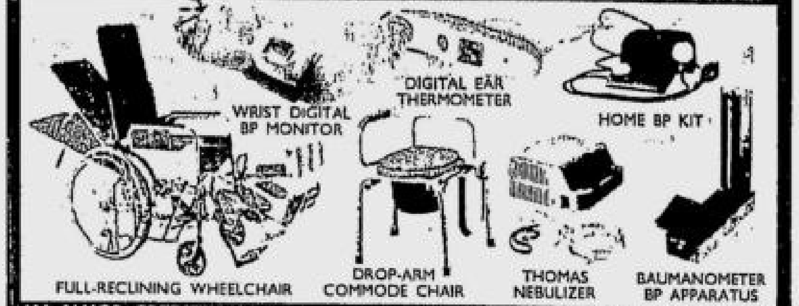

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4 Misuari men slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Four suspected followers of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari have been slain, including one lynched by angry villagers, as troops intensified their hunt for remnants of the armed group, military officials said yesterday.

Villagers tipped off soldiers to the presence of a group of gunmen, triggering clashes that left three rebels dead yesterday in Limpapa district, Army Col. Alexander Yano said.

An AK-47 rifle and two Garand rifles were recovered from the slain rebels, while their companions are being pursued by troops, Yano said.

The body of a fourth Misuari follower was recovered by police in Pasonanca district after villagers lynched him when he fled after trying to attack two people with a club, witnesses said.

The man's body had gunshot and knife wounds.

More than 200 Misuari followers last week took over the Cabatangan government complex in this southern city, triggering clashes with the military that left scores dead and wounded.

They later seized about 113 civilians but freed them in exchange for safe passage out of the city.

The gunmen were escorted to an isolated rebel camp in a coastal village outside Zamboanga, but several others were left behind and fled into surrounding areas.

Groups of stragglers were being hunted by the military as well as angry residents seeking revenge for the hostage-taking.

Nearly 2,000 soldiers have been sent to surround the rebel camp but officials said negotiations were under way to persuade them to lay down their arms and disperse.

Misuari, outgoing governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, launched a rebellion on Nov. 19 in a bid to stop the holding of elections on Nov. 26 to choose his replacement.

His revolt was quashed and Misuari fled to Malaysia where he was arrested for illegal entry.

The elections went ahead as scheduled and Parouk Hussin, a medical doctor and former associate of Misuari in the Moro National Liberation Front, was elected as the new governor.

Hussin said he would attempt to convince Misuari's followers to end their standoff with the military.

He told reporters that he would be a "healing governor" in the desperately poor ARMM. *AFP*

Doc walks free

AFTER more than two days in captivity at the hands of kidnappers, a woman dentist was released unharmed yesterday morning in Sarangani.

Dr. Josefina Montecillo was freed at around 5:30 a.m. at Sitio Datal Conde, Barangay Tokawal in the municipality of Alabel without any ransom paid to her kidnappers, police said.

"She's in good physical condition following her rescue," Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Mindanao regional director, said in a report to national police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

The two abductors, identified as a certain Commander Barracuda and Abdul Omar, escaped.

Baluyot said the two, who earlier demanded an undetermined amount of ransom, panicked and escaped upon sensing the presence of police and military troops at the designated pay-off site, leaving the dentist behind.

TJ Burgonio

Gordon, Braganza close to CA nod

BY C. BALANA AND N. BORDADORA

TWO Cabinet members were yesterday endorsed for confirmation by two bicameral committees of the Commission on Appointments which will go into plenary voting today.

The committee on tourism finally gave its nod to the appointment of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon after two entities opposing his appointment withdrew their complaint.

Also recommended for confirmation was Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza who faced the CA committee on agrarian reform unopposed.

Returning yesterday from an extended working trip, Gordon begged the national media, particularly the large English-language broadsheets, to stop playing up stories on terrorism and crime to improve the country's image abroad and to attract tourists.

He said Filipinos' relative proficiency in the English language was working against the country as press coverage of terror and crime was easily picked up by the foreign news media.

He said the tourism department has been working hard to have negative travel advisories against the Philippines modified but "it is you, who are in the media, who have the power to paint a better picture of the country in the world."

Giving much newspaper space to terrorism and crime was hurting the country, he said at an airport press conference.

"(The foreigners) easily pick up the negative (reports) about the Philippines because of the English-language newspapers," he said.

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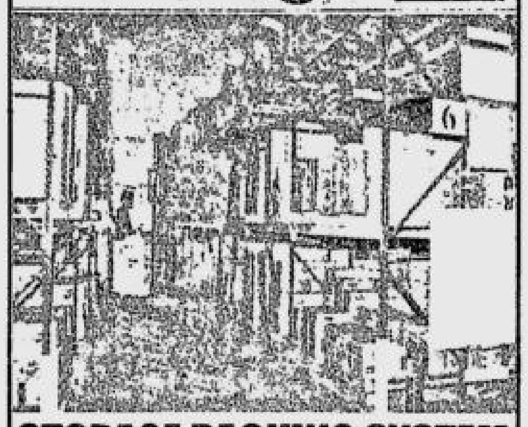

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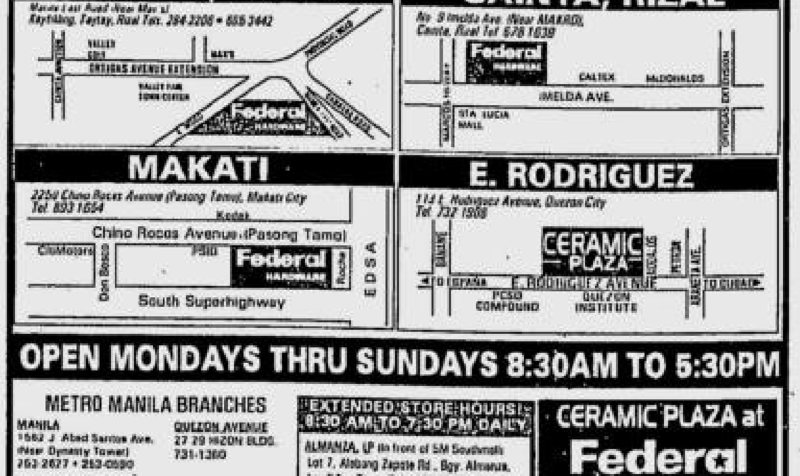

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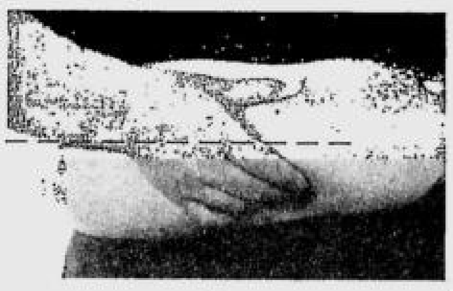

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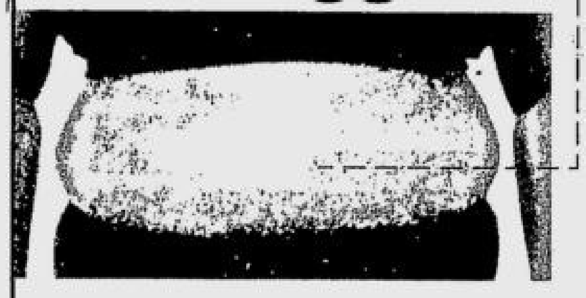

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Israeli gunships attack Arafat's headquarters

(From page A1)

pound in panic, but Arafat and his staff remained in the compound.

The air strike came hours after Israel's Cabinet branded Arafat's government a supporter of terrorism and singled out two organizations affiliated with the Palestinian leader as terror groups—the Tanzim militia and Force 17, a branch of the Palestinian security forces.

After the a five-hour marathon meeting with his Cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared an all-out "war on terror" in response to suicide bombings and shooting attacks by Islamic militants on Israelis that killed 26 and wounded. nearly 200 during the weekend.

The Palestinian leadership urged the UN Security Council to intervene even as Arafat called for an emergency summit of Muslim leaders in the region.

Arab states condemned the Israeli attacks and accused Sharon of trying to kill any hope of reviving a new US peace initiative in the Middle East.

Even so, the US government avoided criticizing the Israeli air strikes, citing Israel's right to self-defense. The White House instead called on Arafat to show his commitment to peace "in actions, not words."

The surge of violence has raised concern that 14 months of violence is spiraling out of control after the deaths of at least 743 Palestinians and 222 Israelis.

Israel's reprisals were aimed at symbols of Arafat's rule. They effectively grounded the Palestinian leader and confined him to Ramallah. On Monday, Israeli missiles damaged Arafat's three helicopters parked near his seaside office in the Gaza Strip. Early Tuesday, Israeli troops tore up the landing strip at Gaza International Airport.

An adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking just before Tuesday's attack on the Arafat, said Arafat was not the target.

"We have stated publicly that we do not intend to harm him personally," said the adviser, Danny Ayalon. "But since he is responsible for the wave of terrorism which has been going on, we had to hit something close to him personally."

Three Israeli missiles hit a security station within the walled compound, about 20 meters from Arafat's office. The shells knocked down a wall and damaged the roof.

No one was inside. Palestinian officials shut the building down after suicide attacks in Israel over the weekend.

At about the same time, Israeli helicopters shelled a Palestinian security installation in the West Bank town of Salfit. There were no reports of injuries.

Israel's Cabinet decision—declaring Arafat's government a supporter of terrorism—was meant to step up pressure on Arafat to crack down hard on militants and prevent attacks on Israeli.

Raanan Gissin, one of Sharon's advisers, said the Cabinet action was not an opening signal for a major assault on the Palestinian Authority.

"We'll use all the measures at our disposal with greater frequency, with more impunity, to put pressure on Arafat to comply," Gissin said.

Ministers from the moderate Labor Party left the Cabinet meeting in protest before the vote was taken. Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh hinted that Labor might quit the coalition, saying that "the unity government is important to us . . . but not at every price."

The Labor Party favors rehabilitating ties with Arafat.

Israel's retaliation began Monday afternoon when helicopter gunships destroyed or damaged Arafat's three helicopters parked near his seaside compound in Gaza City.

F-16 warplanes also bombed Palestinian security installations in the West Bank town of Jenin. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Prison's ready . . .

(From page A1)

The government has insisted that Malaysia might want to investigate Misuari for his alleged link to the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping of 21 tourists and workers in the Malaysian resort of Sipadan last year.

But Malaysian authorities have said that they are only waiting for the Philippine government's go-signal to deport Misuari.

The government would seek the Moro rebels' deportation of Misuari "in good time," according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo swore in Parouk Hussin as the newly elected ARMM governor, along with Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan and other ARMM officials in Malacañang.

A doctor of medicine and former MNLF guerrilla, Hussin said he had sent emissaries to Misuari's camp to talk about reconciliation.

"My policy is reconciliatory. I'm willing to talk to him again. The soonest possible time, the better," he said.

Hussin was part of the 15-man MNLF executive council that took over Misuari's position as MNLF chair.

He said he had also tried to contact Misuari's nephew, Julhambrie Misuari, who took part in Misuari's rebellion by taking more than a hundred hostages in Zamboanga City. The military provided them safe passage out of Zamboanga City after government troops trapped the group in a compound.

Misuari's camp, however, has not returned his feelers, Hussin said.

But earlier at a press forum, Hussin hurled a mouthful at Misuari blaming him for all of the woes of the autonomous region.

"He went wrong in many ways, in leadership and governance," he told the Bulong-Pulungan at the Westin Plaza in Pasay City.

"(There was) corruption, absenteeism, incompetence, arrogance in power. Name it."

Hussin said he had asked the Commission on Audit to look into the remaining budget of the ARMM, which was said to have been misappropriated by Misuari to boost his armed loyalists.

A key reason behind ARMM's underdevelopment, Hussin said, was the fact that only 2 percent of its P4 billion budget was earmarked for development projects.

Most of the fund went to the salaries of employees and monthly operational expenses, he added.

Misuari's administration was also susceptible to corruption since funds coming from the national government, including Government Service Insurance System remittances, went straight to his office, Hussin pointed out.

"We really have to seriously restructure the budget," said Hussin, warning that the move might lead to a mass layoff of ARMM employees.

Speaking at the same forum, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon pointed out that the Senate would still have to include Marawi City and Basilan in the ARMM budget. Both areas became part of the region following a recent plebiscite.

Hussin said he would prefer to have his predecessor face charges in Malaysia before he is extradited.

Indicting Misuari in the Philippines at this point might stir undue sympathy among his followers, he said.

But the new governor said he would make sure that Misuari's loyalists would be made "answerable to the law."

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Ador Mawanay is baaack

(From page A1)

his expert hacking that allowed him to get into computer records of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged dollar deposits in banks abroad.

Mawanay told the INQUIRER in an interview that he did the hacking on Nov. 12-15 with the permission of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

But Corpus denied having authorized Mawanay, a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who is now under the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice.

"On the dollar-account issue of Senator Lacson, Ador had claimed and alleged that he gained the information through hacking on his own free will and initiative. While the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces) does not condone such, we took the information at its face value as basis for verification," Corpus said.

He added: "Beyond this unfortunate development, the leads and information Ador has provided are still worth looking into, and Isafp still believes they are reliable. Isafp will continue to exert all efforts to confirm or deny the information and leads already provided."

Corpus said he did not actually see Mawanay hack into the bank records.

But Mawanay insisted that the Isafp even provided him a computer to allow him to download the documents.

Cell phones

On top of other things, Mawanay has allegedly been dropping Corpus' name in his business of buying and selling cellular phones.

"In his bid to lure people into his cell phone business, Ador would tell (prospective clients) that Colonel Corpus was his partner," said an Isafp official who requested anonymity. "People would put in money, but Ador would deliver only half the number of units promised and demand that they shell out more money to be able to get cheaper units. Then he would stop the delivery, but he would keep the money."

But Mawanay said Corpus' men put him under investigation for two weeks without asking him for his side. "Then last week, they brought to the Isafp three women complainants. But they still refused to listen to my explanation," he said.

Asked how Mawanay could have undertaken his supposed "swindling activities" under the very noses of Isafp officials and escorts, Corpus had this to say: "Ador was placed under our protective custody. We do not intrude into their private lives. Whatever private transaction he was doing, that was his lookout. In the first place, he is guided by the protective custody contract that he should not commit illegal acts."

Mawanay claimed that the intelligence officers "ransacked" his house and took away his landline in the course of looking for the money.

But the money is still with the phone suppliers who have yet to make the delivery, he said.

An Isafp official denied Mawanay's claim, saying: "When we inspected his quarters, that was with his consent. His lawyer Argee Guevara was present when we did that."

Corpus said he had to order Mawanay's landline cut off "to prevent him from swindling more people."

"Ador is our responsibility," Corpus said. "But at the same time, it is also our responsibility to protect the name of the institution. We cannot condone his illegal acts even if he is one of our witnesses in a very important case."

After months of hype, Segway scooter unveiled

(From page A1)

Kamen, a 50-year-old multimillionaire, holds roughly 100 US patents. His other inventions include the heart stent used by Vice President Dick Cheney and a radical improvement on old wheelchair designs.

Kamen said the battery-powered device required little electricity. Kamen's Manchester, New Hampshire-based firm DEKA Research and Development will oversee production of the machine.

The two-wheeled Segway, which looks like a cross between an old rotary lawn mower and a Razor scooter, travels at a top speed of about 27 kph.

Described as the world's first self-balancing human transporter, the device works on a system of coordinating gyroscopes, computer and motor on a T-shaped scooter, with tires that "do what your feet do for you," said inventor Dean Kamen.

Named Segway, the new device has no brakes, no gears and no steering wheel.

"You think forward, you go forward. You think go backward, you go backward," said Kamen trying to describe how the simple-looking invention functions. "It does what a human does."

Kamen's new company called Segway LLC claims the breakthrough technology behind the device is "dynamic stabilization," a self-balancing emulation to work with the body's movements.

Gyroscopes and tilt sensors in it monitor a user's center of gravity at about 100 times a second.

The US Postal Service, General Electric and National Parks Service will be the first customers to purchase them, buying 36-kg heavy-duty models for $8,000 apiece, according to the magazine.

Test drive

The Postal Service plans to test 20 Segways on mail routes in Concord, New Hampshire, and Fort Myers, Florida, starting in January, in hopes of enabling carriers to cover more ground, according to a report on The New York Times' website.

The City of Atlanta plans to use several dozen starting in February in an effort to reduce emissions and traffic congestion, the Times said.

A 29-kg $3,000 consumer model won't be available for at least a year.

Kamen, who said he withheld information on the Segway until he had finished filing related patents, is an accomplished inventor and recipient last year of the National Medal of Technology, awarded by President Bill Clinton.

From the time plans for the machine were first leaked to a website called Inside.com almost a year ago, tantalizing but vague mentions of the project—code-named "Ginger" or "IT"—kept the device in a controlled state of pent-up hype.

Corporate luminaries who'd gotten sneak previews described the machine's impact as "as big as the PC" and "bigger than the Internet."

Time said its article's author was given license to shadow Kamen for three months, on condition of secrecy. Other publications, including the New York Times, were given advance information on the project in return for pledges to secrecy.

The Associated Press was offered an advance look at the invention on condition it did not release the information until an hour before the Good Morning America broadcast. It turned down the deal. *Reports from AP, AFP*

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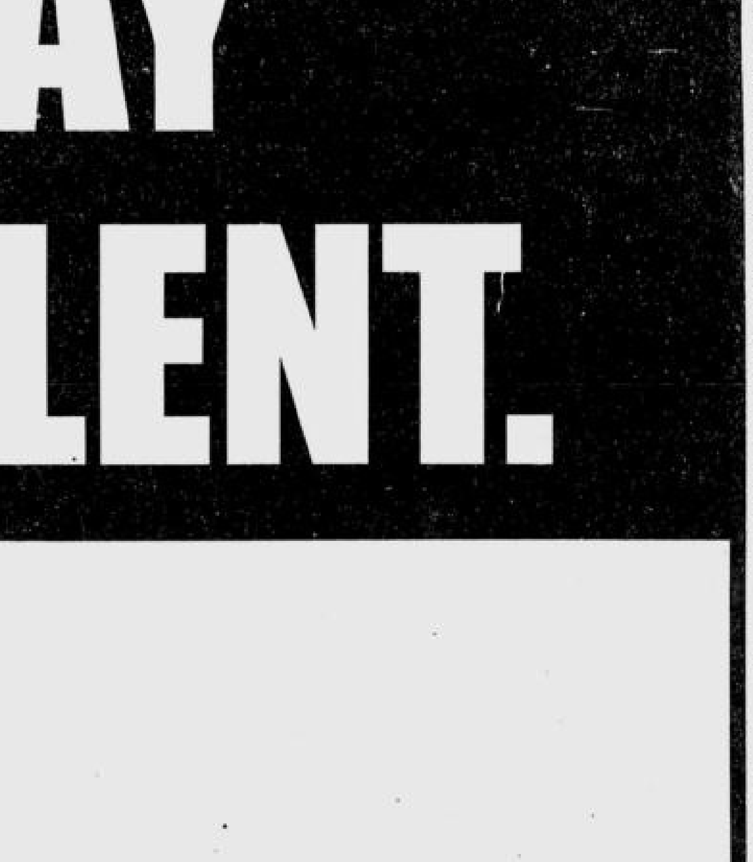

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No proof to pin down Medel, says PNP

(From page A1)

the nail scrapings from Blanca's body yielded negative results.

"What we have taken from the nail scrapings was the DNA profile of the victim. That is the only thing we have established," Pedregoza said, adding:

"All the other evidence have not established anything."

Medel had earlier confessed to the PNP's Task Force Marsha that he killed Blanca on the orders of her husband Rod Lauren Strunk. But at the preliminary investigation of the Department of Justice, he went into hysterics and said he had been tortured into making the confession. He also denied knowing Strunk.

"He's not really normal but he is not psychotic," Dr. Romel Papa, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's neuro-psychiatric division, said yesterday of Medel.

The NBI released to the media the results of Medel's polygraph, physical and psychological tests conducted on Nov. 26-28, and which ostensibly showed that he passed the lie detector test, bore no marks of torture, and was suffering from "hypomanic episode."

The symptoms of this condition include being over-talkative and hyperactive and having "flights of ideas," or suddenly changing topics in the middle of a conversation, Papa said.

He said Medel's condition could be biological or caused by chemical changes in the brain.

But Medel is "not insane" and his condition is "not severe enough to cause marked impairment in functioning and is not associated with psychotic symptoms," Papa added.

Inconclusive

But Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee, DOJ spokesperson, said authorities should be "careful" in handling the results of any polygraph test.

"The results do not (speak for) the overall case," Teehankee said. "These are still not conclusive. Remember that when he answered the polygraph test he might be suffering from hypomanic episode. So maybe he believed that he had nothing to do with the Nida Blanca case."

Teehankee also said Medel needed "more examinations," adding that this was why he was still at the NBI.

Regarding Medel's application for inclusion in the DOJ's Witness Protection Program, Teehankee said he would not qualify "because he does not have knowledge of the crime."

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said a ranking official of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group had admitted to him that Medel was an asset of Senior Supt. Jess Versoza, a member of Task Force Marsha.

Velasco told reporters that the source described Medel as "an asset of Versoza in cracking the *'lata-lata'* gang," right after Medel went into hysterics during the preliminary investigation on Nov. 23."

Velasco also assailed members of Task Force Marsha, saying they had withheld from DOJ officials "some vital information" involving Medel's background and the circumstances of his alleged surrender.

It was Velasco who had ordered the NBI to subject Medel to physical, mental and polygraph tests and to conduct a parallel investigation of the Blanca murder.

On Nov. 29, the DOJ remanded to the PNP the parricide and murder complaint filed against Strunk, Medel and alleged middleman Mike Martinez because of insufficient evidence.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the PNP should conduct "further investigation" on the case.

Zuño said the DOJ decision virtually cleared Strunk of the allegation that he masterminded the killing of his wife.

"It's as good as a dismissal," he said. "Insofar as the DOJ is concerned, Strunk, Medel and Martinez are no longer respondents. If ever (PNP officials) refile the case, it will be in another docket."

Director Thompson Lantion of the PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations earlier said that Medel's confession would still form part of the evidence to be submitted in the event that the case was re-filed before the DOJ.

He had insisted that Medel's confession was voluntarily sworn before a lawyer.

Consistent

Papa joined lawyer Ric Diaz, spokesperson of the NBI investigation, and other specialists of the bureau in announcing the results of Medel's tests in a press conference yesterday.

Diaz said the polygraph test results showed that Medel "revealed no specific reactions indicative of deception during the test."

"He was consistent with his answers," NBI polygraph division head Ernesto Lucena said, adding that Medel did not show signs that he was lying when asked a series of questions.

Among the questions asked Medel were: "Did you know the plan to kill Nida Blanca," "Did you personally kill Nida Blanca" and "Do you know for sure who killed Nida Blanca?"

He answered that he did not know of anyone or any plan to kill the actress. He also denied killing her.

Then he was asked: "Is it true that you confessed to killing Nida Blanca because you were tortured?" and "Besides (seeking) justice and truth, did you have any other motive in your recantation of your confession of killing Nida Blanca?"

Medel answered that he was tortured and that he had no other motive, such as a financial deal gone sour, in recanting his confession.

He was also asked: "Did (Task Force Marsha spokesperson) Col. (Leonardo) Espina present Mike Martinez to you?" He answered "yes."

But while the polygraph test ostensibly showed that Medel was "telling the truth" when he answered his interrogators, NBI medico-legal chief Maximo Reyes found no evidence that he was tortured.

Reyes said he should have found torture marks because he conducted the test five days after the police allegedly abducted Medel.

He said he found only ligature marks on Medel's wrists and feet, "which could have been due to the handcuffs he had on."

"I cannot support the theory that he was tortured," Reyes said.

But he admitted that the "water cure" did not leave any marks "unless the victim is killed, (in which case) we would find water in his respiratory system."

He also said the alleged electric shocks applied on Medel would not necessarily leave marks, "depending on the electric current used."

Diaz said it would be up to the National Police Commission and the Commission on Human Rights to look into Medel's claim of torture.

He said the NBI would focus on solving the Blanca murder. "There are now two investigations—one by the NBI and the other by the PNP," he added.

Screaming

Medel made another outburst at yesterday's hearing of the petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by the family of the missing Martinez.

"I never voluntarily surrendered!" Medel screamed in response to Espina's narration of his arrest on the evening of Nov. 18.

Angered, Presiding Judge Percival Mandap Lopez threatened to send Medel to the Quezon City Jail for direct contempt if he made another outburst.

Medel promptly apologized. Earlier, he thumped his chest and breathed curses on catching sight of Espina.

In his testimony, Medel reiterated his earlier claim that he was brought together with Martinez at the headquarters of the PNP-CIDG in Camp Crame past midnight of Nov. 19.

He claimed to have seen Espina hitting Martinez, and, at one point, punching the latter so strongly that a doctor had to be called in.

But Espina said he could not have done these things to Martinez because he was home at the time.

He presented papers from the PNP General Hospital showing that no doctor or medical team was dispatched to the CIDG during the period that Martinez was purportedly being beaten up. ***With a report from Agnes E. Donato***

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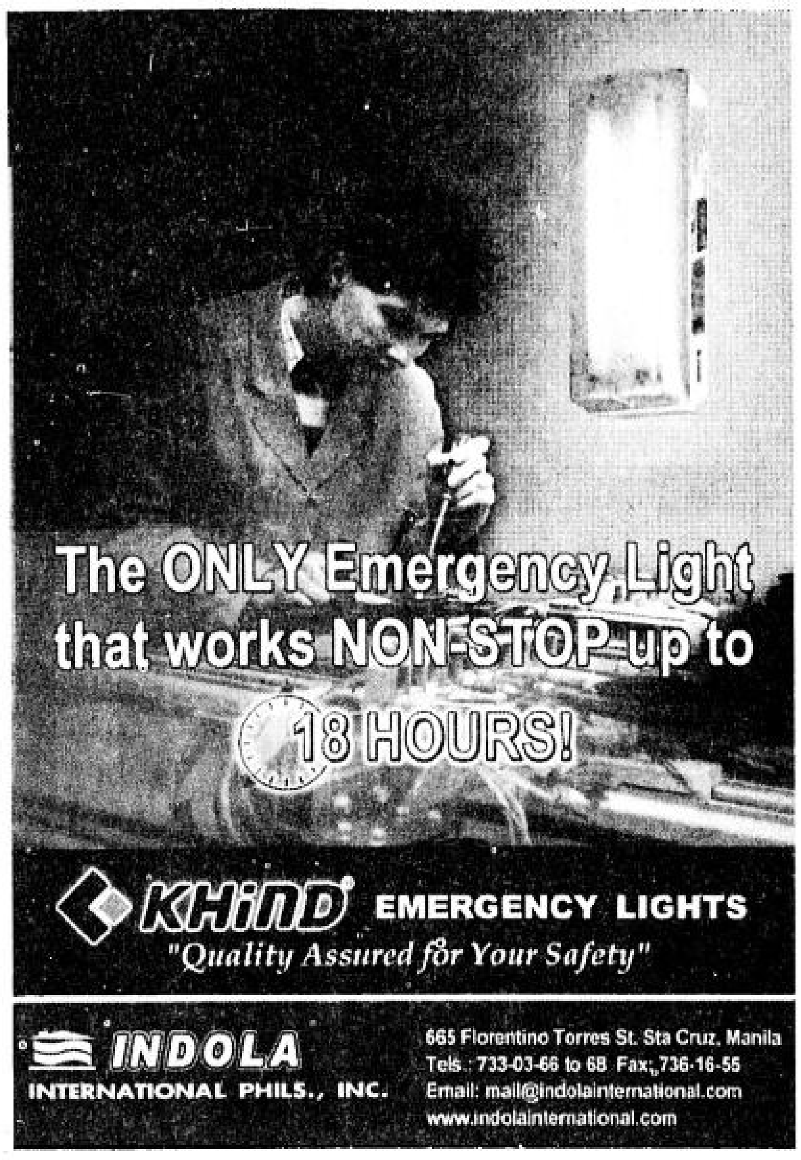
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Message

When I signed R.A. 9013 or the Philippine Quality Award Act on 28 February 2001, it was with a firm belief that this law will serve as a catalyst in achieving our priority programs of poverty alleviation , good governance and improving the quality of life of the Filipino people. The Philippine Quality Award (PQA) aims to encourage all sectors of the economy to strive for optimum productivity and improved quality. It is a very crucial program especially now when our country and the rest of the world are experiencing economic difficulties due to the prevailing uncertainty in the global market. Our local industries must become competitive in both domestic and foreign fronts so that our country will be able to live through these challenging times.

I would like therefore to extend my warmest congratulations to this year's recipients of the recognition levels of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA). Intel Philippines and Integrated Microelectronics, Inc. are the first two companies to be given the PQA Recognition for Mastery in Quality Management (Level III). Cypress Semiconductor Phils., Inc. will receive the PQA Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management (Level I).

Let us make these companies our role models in the country. Let us follow their examples, emulate their best practices and join them in helping our country become more competitive in the world market. What better time to strive for excellence in performance than the present! What better time to show the country and the world, that there are world-class Philippine companies continuously striving towards quality improvement and excellence in performance. I therefore challenge all organizational units in the country especially in the public sector to embrace the concept of total quality management in their own organizations.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

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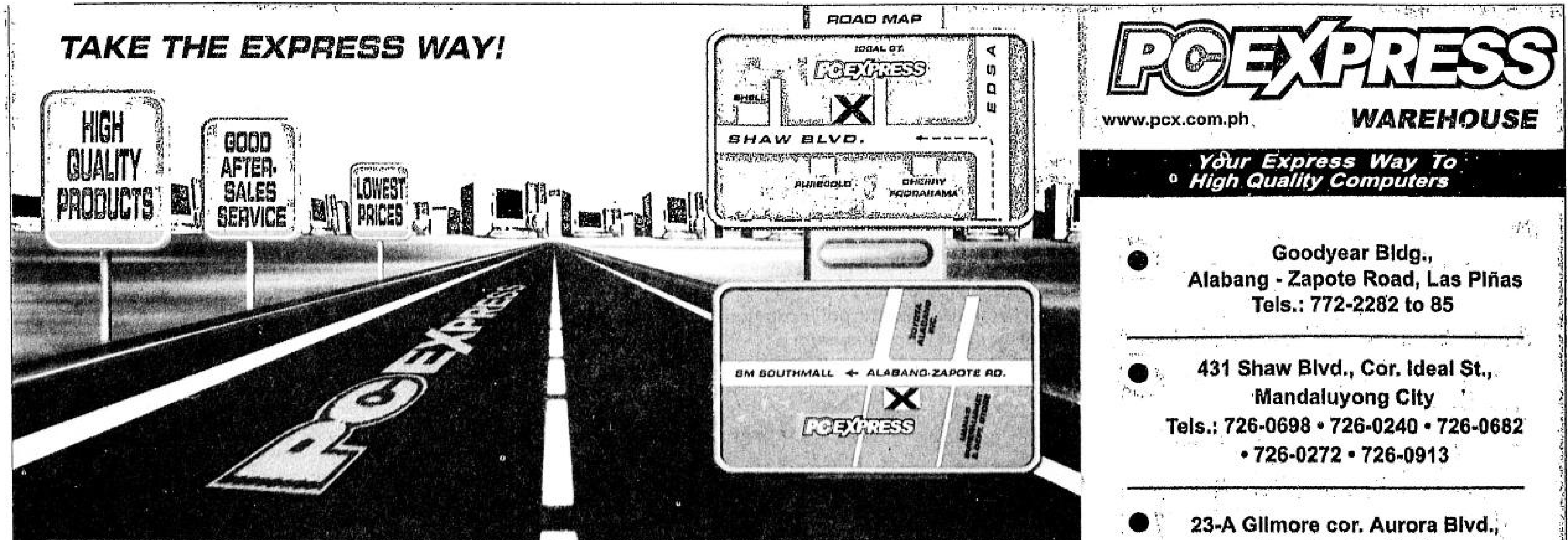
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BI chief denies sacking deputy

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Rocky Nazareno

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday denied that she has suspended the immigration official who tried to arrest Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo, the businessman who has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of corruption.

Domingo said only the President can sanction or suspend Deputy Commissioner Orlando Dizon, a former director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

She said Dizon was not with the team that tried to "invite" Marcelo when he appeared before a Senate hearing last week.

But the four agents who served the mission order to "invite" Marcelo for questioning on his citizenship were being investigated, Domingo said.

The immigration chief said that Marcelo, who has accused Ms Macapagal of attempting to wrest control of his telecommunications company, would not be deported "until the Senate has finished with him."

At the Senate, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday rapped the opposition for "playing games" and acting in "bad faith" in demanding that Marcelo be allowed to testify on the telecommunications scam only to ask for plenary hearings on the day Marcelo was scheduled to appear before the committee.

Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, said the committee had "sacrificed a prior schedule for the coco levy controversy" just to accommodate the opposition's request and scrounged for a room and "found one for Dec. 13th, morning and afternoon, so Marcelo can testify."

But then the minority asked to schedule committee and plenary hearings on the budget that would conflict with the Dec. 13th schedule for Marcelo's testimony.

Senate rules prohibit the holding of committee hearings at the same time as plenary sessions.

Arroyo asked the minority whether they want Marcelo's testimony, "but they can no longer have it on Dec. 13."

Meanwhile, with the way cleared for his Senate testimony, Marcelo yesterday vowed to prove his allegations against Ms Macapagal with "witnesses and documents that will lead to the conclusion that the President was involved in this." *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

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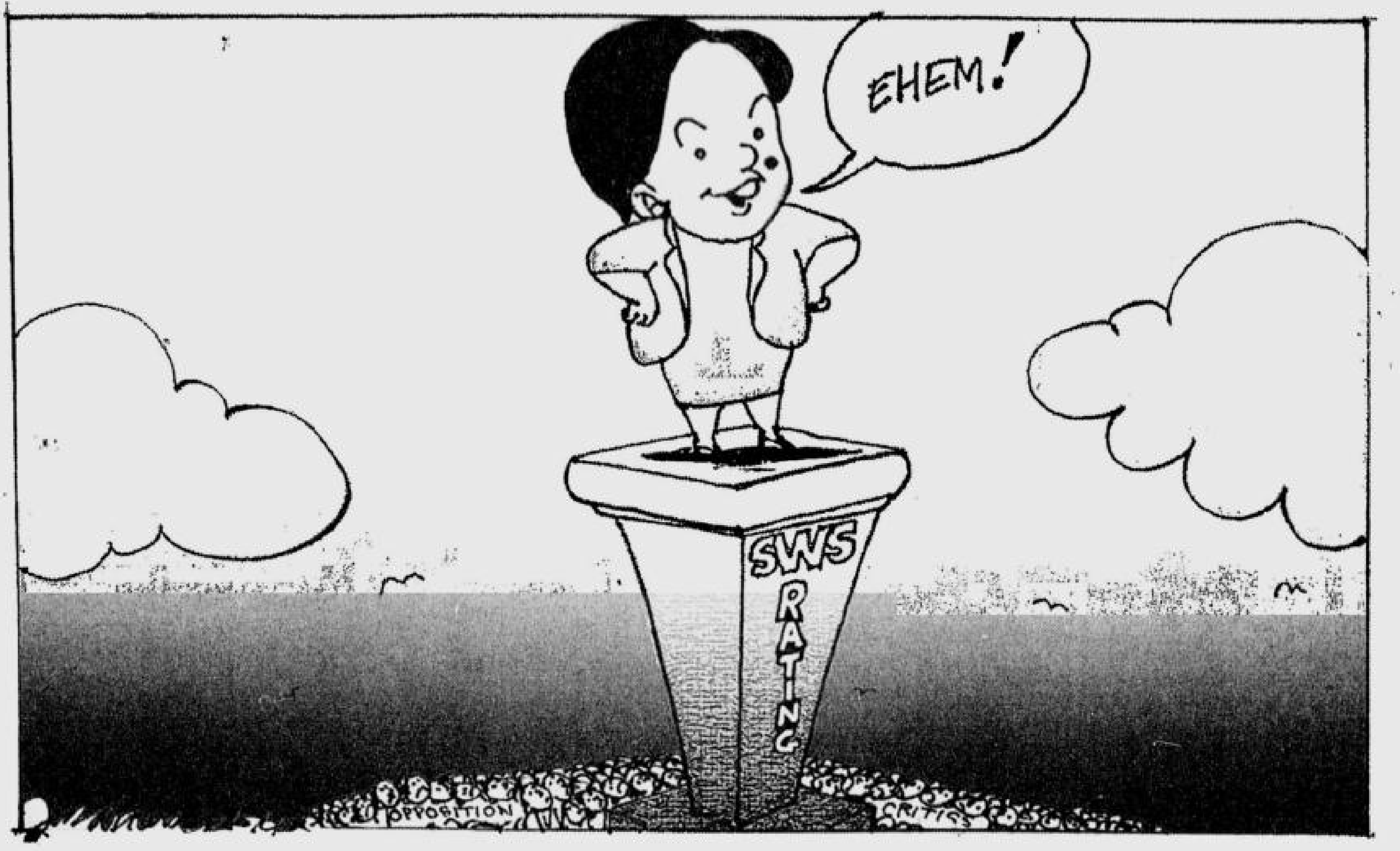

Deal undone

EDITORIAL

ORDINARY people may not have heard of Dante Ang and Norberto Gonzales, but they have the President's ear. Ang is Ms Macapagal's personal publicist while Gonzales carries the official title of presidential adviser on special concerns. Now they are saying that without the President's knowledge they brokered an agreement to settle a problem that has been mired in controversy for at least the last 15 years. And where others before them tried to achieve the same thing for love of money, they did it *gratis et amore*.

Ms Macapagal should be mighty pleased she has people who try to find solutions to some very tough problems without her bidding. But not this time, when the issue involves the disposition of funds from the coconut levy now estimated to reach P130 billion. In an issue as sensitive as this one, any backroom deals can only give rise to suspicions of rich commissions and payoffs—in this particular instance P20 billion allegedly pledged for Ms Macapagal's war chest in the 2004 elections, if her critics are to be believed.

Under the terms of the "mutual agreement" signed last Oct. 28 by leaders of some coconut farmers' groups and landowners, a P50-billion perpetual trust fund would be established for the benefit of coconut farmers using part of the 31 percent interest in San Miguel Corp. purchased with coconut levy funds. The agreement further says that 40 percent of the earnings of the trust fund would be divided among the farmers, 25 percent would go to the government, 20 to Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (Cocofed) and the remaining 15 percent would be retained in the trust fund.

Ang and Gonzales said the basic idea was to unfreeze the funds that were locked in various investments like the shares in SMC so that the coconut farmers could make use of the money. This was the argument that convinced many people like Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao about the correctness of the compromise agreement. Capalla said he was moved to arrange a dialogue between the representatives of the farmers and Cocofed, led by Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, after seeing how "desperate Mindanao farmers had become in the face of "grinding poverty."

Ms Macapagal herself seemed at one point to lean toward accepting the compromise agreement. If she did she would have walked straight into a legal and political booby trap.

Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said the proposed agreement was illegal, immoral and contrary to public policy. The agreement "appears contrary to the purported intent of the laws creating the coconut levy…(which was) to create a public trust fund for the benefit of the farmers, not a private source of capital for Marcos and his cronies," Yorac said on Monday. The compromise settlement would also be immoral, she said, as it would allow some of Marcos' cronies, like Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Juan Ponce Enrile and Lobregat, to keep their plundered loot.

Yorac also pointed out several obstacles to forging a compromise agreement, like the one hammered out during the Davao meeting. First, there is the case filed by the government asking the Supreme Court to declare the coconut levy funds as public funds. The Supreme Court has already gone halfway in declaring the funds to be "imbued with public interest," but unless the courts come out with a categorical decision on their ownership, the funds cannot be touched by the government.

Yorac further noted that Ang and Gonzales negotiated without the authority from the PCGG. In fact, the two bypassed not only the PCGG, but also the Office of the Solicitor General, the executive secretary and the presidential legal counsel. However, without the PCGG's approval, Yorac said, "there can be no settlement of any kind."

Given all these obstacles, the interesting question is why Ang and Gonzales pushed ahead with their plan. Were they confident that they could sell it to the President later on? And if they were negotiating without getting the green light from the President, why did hard-nosed businessmen and politicians like Cojuangco and Lobregat give them the time of day?

Now the deal has been undone. Ms Macapagal has told Ang and Gonzales to keep their hands off the coconut levy case. But is that all they will get for putting her administration in a very embarrassing, if not a compromising, situation? Such a slap on the wrist could only confirm public suspicions that the President knows more about the deal than she or her friends are telling.

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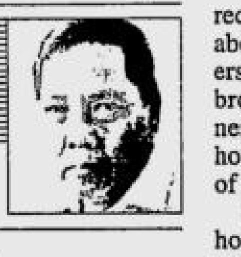


Neal H. Cruz

WHO is the James Bond of the Macapagal Cabinet? Who else but the Cabinet member who does nothing but float bonds: Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. Instead of collecting taxes, Camacho issues bonds left and right to cover the budget deficit—and also to finance his sister's NGO. To date, there are about half-a-dozen bonds issued or still in the works. That is why Camacho is being called James, or Joe Bond. (Now you know who is a leading member of the Bond of Brothers or the Rubber (pronounced Robber?) Bond.

There is nothing wrong with raising funds legally and morally, especially if it is to balance the budget or at least reduce the deficit. In times of economic depression, you have to pump prime the economy to help it recover.

But going deep in debt—for that is basically what a bond issue is—hardly improves the situation, especially if you borrow more money to pay previous debts. The government is borrowing the money of the buyers of the bond and paying it back with a guaranteed interest. So it goes deeper in hock. Like the farmer who borrows money to save his crop only to lose the whole farm. The Philippines is already so deep in debt that one-third of its budget goes to the payment of debts.

Who is going to pay for those debts? Us, our children and grandchildren. Babies who are yet to be born. We are mortgaging the future of our descendants. Every man, woman and child in the Philippines, including babies, already owe several thousands of pesos each.

But that hardly bothers Joe Bond or Ate Glo and other officials of the administration. That's not their problem. They borrow the money, yes, but paying them is not their problem. Like the president who, when asked how he was going to pay the huge amounts he was borrowing, answered: "*Aba, hindi ko na problema 'yan. Problema na 'yan ng susunod na presidente.*" Paying back the bonds issued by Joe Bond will no longer be his problem. It will be the problem of the succeeding administration.

A good head of the family, when what he earns is not enough for the family needs, tells its members to spend less, to tighten their belts to make the income last longer. Not the head of our government.

On the contrary, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is asking Congress to appropriate more money for—you won't believe this—travels. If she has her way, the budget for travel will be P8 billion for the coming year (that's billion). Her administration will spend about P10 million a day for travel alone!

We had thought that President Fidel V. Ramos was the travelingest president we ever had. He made President Marcos, whom we thought traveled too much, look like a homebody. But now President Macapagal is making FVR (who, by the way, continues to travel far and wide—at the people's expense), look like a homebody. In the first year of her borrowed term, she has traveled 12 times. That's one trip a month! Together, FVR and GMA make Marco Polo, Ferdinand Magellan and Christopher Columbus look like homebodies.

We don't begrudge Ms Macapagal her wanderlust if she is spending her own money. The more she flies, the bigger are the chances that the law of averages will catch up with her. But she is spending not her, but our own money, money that we had such a hard time slaving for but which was taken away from us by the tax collector.

And she is spending it not only for herself but also for the hordes of officials, media people and assorted hangers on who join the trips. In her recent trip to the United States, she accredited about a hundred media people, including stringers of tabloids and fly-by-night publications and broadcast stations, people who have no business covering a presidential trip. The plane fares, hotel accommodations and pocket money of most of them were paid by the taxpayers.

Imagine how many low-cost homes for the homeless, how many schoolhouses, how many kilometers of roads, how much food for the hungry P8 billion will finance. Imagine how P8 billion, spent here, can help boost the economy. But that P8 billion, and the billions more before it, have been spent, and will be spent, abroad for hotels, shopping, food and airline tickets and benefit not Filipinos but foreigners. The money was taken from Filipinos but spent to benefit foreigners.

Frequent junkets, by the way, is a sure sign that the head of the state is in trouble at home. Trips are the standard remedy of officials to escape problems. The media's attention is diverted to the trip, away from his domestic problems. And the press, as a general rule, don't criticize their leader when he is in another country.

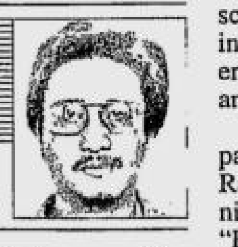
In the midst of his troubles with Watergate, President Richard Nixon went to China to get some respite. But when he returned home, the Watergate feeding frenzy continued and he was finally forced to resign.

There are others ways to remove a head of state when he is traveling abroad. The Shah of Iran was deposed while he was traveling in Europe. Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia was also deposed while he was in Europe. Many other despots and dictators in banana republics have been ousted while on junkets. For that is an easy way to remove a head of state—while he is already away. When he tries to return to his country, he finds the doors closed and he has been replaced.

So, Ms President, too many junkets are fraught with danger. You may return one day to find Erap back in Malacañang. So stay home and do your work.

All things must pass

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

"THE DAY The Music Died" was Don McLean's paean to Buddy Holly who died in a plane crash. McLean's sense of loss was so incalculable he depicted it in those epic terms, the death not just of a musician but of music itself. Few now remember Buddy Holly—or even know him, though he had one song that the Beatles sung, which was (final answer) "Words of Love" from the album "Beatles for Sale"—and can feel such depths of bereavement at his passing.

For most people, the day the music died was the day John Lennon was gunned down in 1981 in New York. By a madman whose name has thankfully been expunged from human memory, as is the best punishment for those who seek fame, or notoriety, that way.

That death resonated around the world and caused a profound sense of loss. It left a void in the heart, and a silence in the mind, or ear. Last year, I read Yoko Ono's recollection of that dark day in Time Magazine's tribute to the great people of the 20th century, and looking at the event through her tear-laden eyes made me realize my own oppression at his death too. Lennon had seeped through the collective consciousness of an entire generation, and lodged there like a vapor or wispy emanation. People who had grown up on his music did not just feel they had lost a part of their body, they felt they had lost a part of their soul.

I felt an echo of all this last Saturday when the second Beatle died. George Harrison did not die violently, like Lennon, but he died equally tragically, early in life by throat cancer. Not all the wealth of the world truly can stay off the hand of death, particularly when it stalks so relentlessly. But if the reports are to be believed, Harrison himself did not take it to be the tragedy everyone did. He took it stoically, and not without a touch of self-deprecating humor. He remained fervent to the last in his belief a better life lay elsewhere, in his belief in death was only a passage into a higher, more spiritual, plane.

He used to say apparently, "Everything else can wait but the search for God cannot; love one another." I can believe it. His songs, particularly in the post-Beatles era, were all about searching for that higher plane, or what he himself called God, though his concept of it little resembled the Christian one. And that was pretty much how he lived, little touched by the cares of the world, little lost in the dizzying glitter of success.

Critics have said their piece about Harrison's songwriting abilities in relation to Lennon and Paul McCartney, and found themselves comparing mere talent with sheer genius. That is probably true, though I've always found "Here Comes the Sun" a dazzling piece of music. But even truer is that the Beatles were the best example of the whole being far more than the parts. Their true genius lay in their interaction, not in their separate abilities.

Someone asked me once whom I admired most among the Beatles, and I answered without hesitation "all of them." Even Ringo Starr, who wasn't an original Beatle—he replaced Pete Best, also called the forgotten Beatle—who provided comic relief and a very human vulnerability to the group. My interviewer thought my answer was a copout. I said, not at all, look what happened when they went their separate ways. They had moments of brilliance, but not much else. Compare that when they were still the Beatles, when they wrote songs that, with the exception of a few lemons in "Yellow Submarine," all turned out to be gems. Some less bright than the others but still gems. No other group can boast of such a feat.

But I liked George Harrison for his adventurous spirit, for plunging into the unknown, for his restless quest for something transcendent. He it was who went in a big way into Indian music and culture, far more than the other Beatles did. The result was, quite apart from his belief in the transcendental life which he held on to till death, his introduction of Indian music to the world, hitherto the province only of students of the arcane and exotic.

It was Harrison who studied the sitar with a passion, at the feet of no less than the master Ravi Shankar (that is one certifiable musical genius), and who started playing it in the album "Revolver." It's the strange slithering sound you hear in "I'm Only Sleeping," "Love You To" and "Tomorrow Never Knows." And in "Within You, Without You" in "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." The last three are the only songs quite incidentally that have escaped interpretation in the yearly Beatles Night at 70s Bistro.

Among the Beatles, Harrison was probably the least bothered by public approval or acceptance, and took directions other popular musicians might have thought a kiss of death. Paradoxically, for someone who was near-obsessive about his private space, and who eventually lived a life away from the public gaze, he was relentless in his quest for going beyond the egotistic self. "I, Me, Mine," was the song with which he disparaged humanity's narcissistic preoccupations.

"Lay down all thoughts, surrender to the void," sang John Lennon in "Tomorrow Never Knows": If anyone might have willingly done that, it would have been George Harrison. If anyone might have plunged into the unknown without fear, hoping only to embrace something or someone bigger than himself, it would have been George Harrison. At least I like to think so. I like to think his death would have been tragic only for us, but not for him.

I remember that when Louis Armstrong, the great Satchmo, died in 1970, everyone said of him that he was a pure soul, he never said an unkind word about anyone, he just wanted to make everybody happy. I don't know that Harrison never said an unkind world about anyone—the Beatles were not always kind to each other. But I do know that while he lived, he made a lot of people happy.

I for one will never be sufficiently grateful for it.

Women in post-Taliban rule

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Ellen Goodman, the syndicated Boston-based writer on social issues and one of the gurus of contemporary feminism, talks about a photograph on her desk that she has been pondering. It is a newspaper portrait of a group of Afghan tribal chiefs gathered in a Pakistani border town to plan for a transition to the post-Taliban regime in neighboring Afghanistan, which has in fact happened few weeks back. What is wrong with his picture? Goodman kept asking herself.

The picture shows a diverse group of elders with colorful turbans and the varied robes of the clans they are representing. Goodman, in true journalistic tradition, scrawled a caption across the photograph: "What's wrong with this picture?"

There's nothing wrong with the picture if the perspective of the 1,500 tribal leaders is all that matters. These are the chiefs, the traditional leaders in whose hands the future of Afghanistan rests. They are posing for a moment in history.

But there is something wrong from the perspective of the outside world, especially if one is a diehard feminist like Goodman. The trouble with the picture is that, among the 1,500 leaders assembled, there is no woman!

"Have we gotten so used to the absence of women in Afghanistan, invisible under the burqa, anonymous and mute, that this picture passes without comment?" asks Goodman, a bit sardonically. "Have we seen them as victims of war for so long that we can't envision them as builders of the peace?"

For a little bit of history: Women now constitute 54 percent of the population of Afghanistan. More than 27 years of continuous war in this tragic blighted country has taken a toll on the men. Women gradually earned rights over the 20th century. While the country wasn't a showcase of feminism (contrary, for instance, to references to the Philippines as a country of "strong women"), Afghanistan did have a place for women in society, until the Taliban specter appeared. Even before the Soviet takeover in 1979, women had served in parliament, attended college and became professionals. They were at least recognized as human beings.

The subsequent Soviet occupation, followed by the more draconian and dreaded Taliban rule, ended all that. The forcible institution of the burqa, which not only meant a veil around one's head and neck, but the whole face as well with only a mesh for the eyes to see through, was the ultimate in female humiliation and repression. Living in darkness was how it was.

There were lots of stories about how women, who were caught removing the burqa, for relief basically, would be beaten up savagely by men in public.

Women were subjected to other indignities and put under arrest. But some managed to flee to refugee camps and to other countries. They were reduced to nothing. They joined the ranks of countless women in the international diaspora, where they could tell their stories.

Long before the Sept. 11 disaster struck, so many petitions had been circulating on e-mail calling attention to the plight of Afghan women. Incidents of unspeakable cruelty resulting in death and injury against thousands of women by the Taliban were routinely circulated in international circles. Organizations like the Afghan Women's Network began doing political work by educating refugee women and children in the camps.

Even as far away as Hawaii, there are Afghan women who fled Taliban rule. They have helped explain the situation in Afghanistan under Taliban rule in light of recent events.

Goodman also cites the case of Rina Amiri, an Afghan-born advocate of the Women Waging Peace Network at Harvard, who is unrelenting in fighting for her fellow women's rights. "When it comes to war," Amiri says, "women's issues always get put to the side." People always insist on putting arms away, "to get food on the table first," she continues. "But who will help build that civil society—the warlords or the women who have been finding ways to feed their families now?"

Warlords versus women, indeed. It's time for the e-mails to come back in the circuit, for international institutions to press vigorously for the inclusion of women in leadership positions in the post-Taliban dispensation.

Fortunately, according to Goodman, California Sen. Barbara Boxer has introduced an amendment to the foreign appropriations bill calling for the inclusion of women in any new Afghan government. This is the kind of international pressure that can be brought to bear on the all-male leaders, portrayed in the picture on Goodman's desk, who are now poised to take over the reins of the country.

And it's really not just women's rights per se that's at issue here. Women are needed in the difficult task of rebuilding the country and bringing about the "civil society" that Amiri talks about, a prerequisite for modernization and lasting peace.

Belinda A. Aquino is a professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

A law on domestic violence

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

INTERVIEWED in 1996 by the "Probe Team," Maria Teresa Carlson was asked why she chose to go public with her story of years of abuse at the hands of her husband, Rodolfo Farinas, then governor of Ilocos Norte.

"I'm doing this so that what happened to me will not happen to any other woman," Maria said simply.

For women's groups, the fulfillment of Maria's wish would in large part rest on the passage of a law addressing the issue of violence and abuse in the home and within the family. Much of the publicity so far has centered on a bill on "abuse of women in intimate relations," known by its acronym Awir. The Awir bill, filed in the 11th and 12th Congress by Rep. Bella Angara-Castillo and co-sponsored by Sectoral Reps. Etta Rosales and Liza Masa, is the legislation being pushed by Sibol, a consortium of different women's groups lobbying for the passage of pro-women laws.

But the Awir bill is not the only pending legislation on domestic violence. Different bills have been filed in both the House and Senate, differing in details, but covering much common ground among them. Given the blizzard of publicity in the wake of Maria's suicide, observers are optimistic that a law addressing domestic violence could be passed by this Congress. Significant also is the fact that Farinas is no longer a congressman and is thus no longer able to block the legislation's passage. We cannot discount, either, the resolve of women in the House, under the leadership of Rep. Cynthia Villar, to shepherd such a law through the legislative mills.

* * *

CONDITIONS weren't as conducive in the last Congress, and, much as we may hate to admit it, the failure to pass a domestic violence law was as much due to divisions within the women's movement as it was to different priorities among legislators.

As the women's party-list group among the 13 successful party-list groups in the 11th Congress, Abanse! Pinay had made the passage of a law addressing the abuse of women in the family a top priority. Optimism for the passage of the law ran high especially after Pat Sarenas, the Abanse! Pinay representative, was appointed chair of the committee on women. The bills on domestic violence, including Awir, though, were also referred to two other committees: the committee on revision of laws and on justice, which was designated the lead committee.

Initially, the staff of Representative Sarenas had favored the Awir bill, which was the product of years of consultations and drafting by Sibol. But other Abanse! Pinay officers, including lawyers Katrina Legarda and Lorna Kapunan, were of the opinion that such a bill would not be passed as it singled out women for special protection, violating a Constitutional guarantee of "equal protection in the law" for men and women.

As committee on women chair, Sarenas called several hearings and consultations, to which proponents of the Awir bill were invited. After several months, the committee came up with a "consolidated version" of a domestic violence bill, incorporating features of seven bills filed on the matter, including the Awir bill.

* * *

ACCORDING to Sarenas, the House leadership, particularly then Deputy Speaker Daisy Avance-Fuentes, now governor of South Cotabato, was all set to recommend the consolidated domestic violence bill as a priority legislation of Malacañang. But in a meeting, Representative Angara-Castillo announced that she was filing the Awir bill as a separate piece of legislation. "Well, it seems the women can't make up their minds!" Avance-Fuentes is reported to have exclaimed in frustration.

Other factors got in the way of the speedy passage of a consolidated bill on domestic violence. The justice committee underwent several changes of leadership, and by the time a more-or-less permanent chair took office, the committee was caught up in the entire impeachment process.

For Pat and for all of Abanse! Pinay, the failure to pass a domestic violence bill on the first try was a keen disappointment. Of all the issues raised before rallies and meetings with women around the country, spousal abuse and battering was the issue that galvanized them immediately and resonated most with their reality. But Abanse! Pinay could at least cite other achievements.

In three years in the House, Pat Sarenas was able to shepherd the passage and signing into law of the Solo Parents Welfare Act, the original authors of which were former Rep. Ranjit Shahani and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta. Pat was also able to have a bill against the Trafficking of Women and Children passed by the House, but unfortunately, the counterpart bill in the Senate was not able to move along as swiftly.

* * *

TODAY, of course, Abanse! Pinay is not (yet) in Congress, so the shepherding of a bill on domestic violence, partner abuse, spousal battery or abuse of women in intimate relations (choose your term) must fall on other "champions."

The committee on revision of laws, chaired by Rep. Orlando Fua, has been designated the lead committee for this legislation, and the first public hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 11.

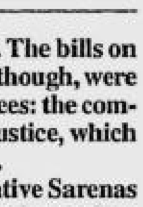
Aside from the Awir bill, the consolidated version of the domestic violence bill from the last Congress has been filed by Rep. Glenda Ecleo. Similar bills have been filed in the Senate by Senators Francis Pangilinan, Loren Legarda and Loi Estrada.

As I said earlier, the different versions of a bill addressing domestic violence have many things in common. Among the more prominent features is the identification of domestic violence as a unique crime, taking into account the nature of the crime and the special circumstances surrounding it, Greater protection for the battered spouse and children is also ensured, as are provisions for counseling and rehabilitation of the surviving victims.

What matters most at this point is the speedy passage of a law addressing a social problem that has for too long been the Filipino family's "dirty secret."

New books

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

IT has been three years since my last book launching. I was stupid enough to believe I could actually cough out a "real" book rather than another compilation of newspaper columns. As the "real" book is still in manuscript I decided to yet new compilations. This time, of lectures and conference papers delivered in the so-called Centennial years from 1993 to 1998.

When all these lectures were compiled the text was estimated to cover about 400 printed pages which led to some rather drastic sorting. Lectures on Philippine art, monastic history, etc. were set aside for a future book(s) while the rest were further classified into two separate but related volumes: "Meaning and History: The Jose Rizal Lectures" and "Bones of Contention: The Andres Bonifacio Lectures." Presuming that my readers will chew on essays much longer than my 900-word newspaper columns, I even threw in the footnotes and bibliographic apparatus critics unfairly demand of my shorter popular pieces. These two books, I consider my pretensions to historical scholarship.

Lecturing is one of the hazards of writing this column on Philippine history. Over the years, I have been tricked, cajoled, or forced to appear on television, radio, and perform in a lecture hall. Despite all my publications (or perhaps because of it) people were not content with seeing me in print. They demanded to meet the person behind the by-line, if only to see how far or how closely I resembled the flattering vintage (some would say historical) photograph that accompanies this column. Then there were other motives for getting me trapped in a lecture hall. Cynics wanted to know if I lectured as well as I wrote and critics lay in wait to heckle me. I got off the noose simply because from 1996-1998 it was a glorious time to be a Filipino historian.

The major difference between writing and lecturing is that in the latter, you stand before warm bodies instead of a cold computer screen. I always feel the pulse of an audience. Do they laugh and clap in the right places and times? Do they yawn or retreat to the restrooms in droves? Unlike a newspaper column that elicits some e-mail, a lecture delivers instant feedback during the open forum that forces me to think on my feet. Snail mail and e-mail can be answered at my convenience, but questions from the floor are more challenging. I am glad to say that I learned more from my listeners than they did from me.

Lecturing forced me to catch fleeting thoughts and commit them to paper. My new books contain essays that began as random notes strung together for a presentation. Then seasoned with my trademark humor and sprinkled with arresting visual aids these notes were transformed into popular lectures delivered in different places to different audiences, changing each time, and slowly stewed into their final essay form. Lectures have to find a more permanent form because, as the late E. Aguilar Cruz used to remind me, *verbum volent scripta manent* (words fly, writing remains).

Naturally, many lectures were recycled into columns, the most memorable of which were the five front-page INQUIRER articles on Rizal that saw print during the five Sundays of December 1996 the centennial of Rizal's death. Then there were the front-page articles in May 1997 that marked the death of Andres Bonifacio that can be found in "Bones of Contention." Then came the 100-day countdown to the June 12 centennial that have been compiled into the Centennial "Countdown." Friends have remarked that I can actually be bottled and registered with Nacida as a cottage industry.

As I rule, I do not hand out copies of my lectures before they are presented due to an unhappy experience with a conference organizer who, against my request, reproduced the paper and distributed copies *before* I spoke. You cannot imagine the difficulty of recovering before a crowd preempted by yourself. Now, due to the numerous requests for copies of my lectures I decided to compile them forever giving up the chance of rehashing them and delivering them over and over again. Publishing these lectures will force me to embark on new research and writing, perhaps to revise even myself and compile yet another collection of lectures!

My only regret is that much of the amusing asides that stirred many a dozing crowd are not in the prepared lecture and are missing from the books. Then there are the replies to the questions during the open forums. While nothing can ever replace the experience of watching a live performance, these lectures in print are presented to readers for whatever they are worth.

Some people will also find it strange that both books open with the same lecture "Meaning and history" which I felt was one way to introduce the lectures and the mind set that worked on these historical explorations. Why will readers bother with my lectures? I merely give history a new and often unexpected twist, a fresh look at old things, new answers for old questions. These books will be launched on Friday Dec. 7 at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati at 6 p.m. It is a season for book launchings but readers of this column are encouraged to brave the traffic and drop by.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu. edu.ph

Life begins at 70

HIGH BLOOD

Roman H.S. Santos Jr.

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

I HAVE often encountered friends and acquaintances in their 50s, 60s and older saying "Mang Roman, it's difficult and tough to be old" or something to that effect. *"Hindi po ba? Bakit kayo ay mukhang bata?"* This sort of surprises and flatters me no end. For as far as I am concerned, I say "life begins at 70." Why not? Konrad Adenauer became the chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany at 73. Winston S. Churchill at 79, in a come back, again became the United Kingdom's prime minister. Ronald Reagan at 73 was reelected US president. Teddy Benigno at 77 is that feisty columnist who still writes, reflecting great courage in exposing ills of our society. INQUIRER's own erudite columnists Isagani A. Cruz and Honesto C. General, Erap's defense counsels Serafin Cuevas, Jose B. Flaminiano and Estelito Mendoza, including Senators Joker Arroyo and Blas Ople are all in their 70s. GSIS chair Hermogenes D. Concepcion Jr. is an octogenarian who is still active. Vice President Tito Guingona is in his 70s who not only is a good statesman, but is a good and mean tennis player. Former SSS commissioners Jack Arroyo and Danding Taylor (when fantastic salaries in that institution was not yet in vogue) are active septuagenarians. Dr. Ernesto G. Tabujara, Ph.D, a former UP regent, UP Diliman chancellor and president of the UP Diliman Tennis Club, is a confirmed septuagenarian, who plays active and competitive tennis. He has introduced the "Tabujara Code of Sportsmanship," wherein he chooses his partners, opponents, courts, time of play and referee, and thereby is assured of winning his matches. Norkis' CEO and owner Norberto "Tootsie" Quisumbing, also in his 70s is still active in business and civic affairs. During the so-called Brezhnev era, the Politburo was dominated by septuagenarians, for Leonid himself was one. Hence, the USSR then was governed by a gerontocratic group. Mao-Zedong, Zhou-En-lai, and Deng Xiao Ping were septuagenarians in the zenith of their rule and power.

Don't you think we should have some more septuagenarians in our government? (Hello GMA, Bert Romulo, Dick Gordon, Dante Canlas, Wency Andanar and others in government). There are many others, who blossomed and attained greatness at past 70.

We, seniors must confront "old" age in our own way. But some basics are in order like, have faith in the Almighty, keep fit, take good care of your health (for health is wealth), keep active, keep up with what's going on in the world. This means making good use of time, which means reading, learning new things, maybe reading Scriptures also, and keeping abreast of current information and events, among other things. You may get involved in community civic projects, join the PTA, run for council man or captain of your barangay and others. In other words, make ourselves useful, even joining rallies and protests, if necessary.

It is so easy to give advice like I've just done but let me make myself as an example (pardon the liberty taken). I have been a long-time member of the UP Diliman Tennis Club (UPDTC) and at about 70 was twice the Class "A" Doubles Champion (that is because of a good partner). Just recently at about 74, I became Singles Champion in the Class "C," Ladies and Seniors (Combined) Category. Lest you think I'm that super, I must add that these are just club tournaments. Presently, I am the president of the UPDTC and chair of the Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association, Quezon City Chapter. I used to be active in Rotary Club New Manila East and Marikina Lodge No. 119. Members of these organizations will be tickled pink when they read this piece.

We older persons should be honest with ourselves about our capabilities and limitations. We cannot eat, drink, exercise, socialize and even love, as much as when we were younger. But it does not mean that we cannot live well, even love well and accomplish just as much, if we utilize and expend our energies carefully and judiciously. Over-eating, over-drinking, over-exercising even over-socializing and over-acting should be avoided. Over-loving with or without Viagra may sometimes be allowed and is optional. I need not mention that playing tennis prolongs life, ask doctors who themselves are good tennis players, and they will agree.

About two months or so before there was an abrupt change in the presidency of our country, I had occasion to visit an old classmate (in Grade 2 in 1934-1935 in Lingayen, Pangasinan) who has attained some greatness. I told him to take good care of himself as the country still needs his services.

True enough, he played a great role in the unprecedented change in the presidency, having been president, himself. By the way, this man too is a septuagenarian, but still is in the pink of health despite having only one kidney and having undergone a carotid artery declogging, keeps fit and abreast of what is going on in the world, and ever ready to still serve our country.

This has gone far enough and let me reemphasize that "life begins at 70." Many, many more things we can do, even if we are considered retired, for we are not yet tired. I hope that the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), which I voted for in the party list in the last elections, and tennis players, young and old will read this.

At this point, let me quote a Chinese proverb which says (with modifications by the writer) "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go play tennis or go fishing. If you want happiness for a month, get married. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. But if you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else."

To end this piece, let me paraphrase Gen. Douglas MacArthur in his farewell address at the US Congress in 1951, by saying that old tennis players sometimes die, but seldom fade away. This septuagenarian does not intend to die yet, nor fade away, and is always available to serve our country in his own way. In this endeavor, I should not tire, falter, or fail, God willing.

Fellow gerontocratics, fellow seniors especially fellow septuagenarians, take heart and hope for we still have many years to go and as the saying goes, the older the wine the sweeter it is. Let us savor our remaining years for the older we grow, the best for us will still be.

Roman H.S. Santos Jr., 74, is a retired government employee.

THEY SAID

Honest work

"No matter how much or how little they earn, as long as it is through honest means, there should be pride and dignity."

—Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon on projects to "professionalize" street workers of Malate and Ermita areas

Clean administration

"I can say without batting an eyelash that this government is emerging as one of the strongest, most efficient and most corruptless administrations."

—Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao

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Management by example not by sampling

THE PUNISHMENT imposed by the Supreme Court upon Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena is an example of management by sampling. It has some publicity value but it will not bring about speedy delivery of justice. Worse, it is unfair in the extreme to Mr. Garchitorena.

There may be some sleeping cases in Mr. Garchitorena's sala, but there is absolutely no talk—not even the slightest rumor in this rumor-prone society—that his inaction on those cases is graft-inspired. Moreover, if all court salas are examined, including those in the Supreme Court, it will be found that Mr. Garchitorena's is not the most crowded. Nor are the un-acted cases in his sala the most aged.

In Japan, I understand, court cases—some, if not all—are deliberately allowed to age. Prompt resolution of some disputes, without benefit of the cooling-off process, creates problems, not solutions. The passage of time has a reconciling or healing effect on parties to disputes.

If the Supreme Court really wants to speed up the delivery of justice, let it start with its own immediate backyard. Management by example is more becoming than management by sampling.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, senior consultant, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

Deflecting attention from himself

MR. Rudy Farinas' recent lesbophobic statements on the TV show "Pipol" shows how he is using the issue of sexuality and sexual identity to put not only his late wife in place but all women as well.

In reference to the woman who heads the organization that his wife ran to, he said "...lesbian *'yan. Dapat siya ang mahiya. Bakit ko naman ibibigay sa kanila si Maria, eh* lesbian *siya. Kakaluyin lang nila.*" The question is, should lesbianism be the issue?

There are many underlying misconceptions in these statements. One, that lesbians should be ashamed of their sexuality/choices because they choose to love other women. Two, that this shame should permeate all aspects of our lives to the point of being driven inert and invisible. Third, that being lesbian is analogous to being sexually opportunistic. And fourth, that it is even better to live under the threat of violence than to be in the company of lesbians.

These statements not only prove Mr. Farinas' lack of understanding of women's issues and concerns, which is ironic considering the length of time he served as a public official, but also the insentivity and prejudice that has fueled and justified all forms of violence against women.

Mr. Farinas is under fire and he knows it. He is trying to deflect attention from himself by raising the issue of sexual identity rather than responding to the issues being raised against him such as the violence that finally drove his wife to jump off that building to her death. In the media, he has not taken any responsibility at all for the circumstances surrounding the death of his wife. No insight, no reflection, no remorse. Ms Carlson was alone in her thoughts, in her life and in death. Mr. Farinas gives the impression that he was not there.

Sino'ng dapat mahiya?—**GINEY VILLAR, RHONA MONTEBON, Womyn Supporting Womyn Centre, wswc@info.com.ph**

Bishop explains coco levy fund dialogue in Davao

IN THE INTEREST of the truth and in fairness to the persons concerned especially President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, I would appreciate your publishing the following facts and personal opinion regarding the so-called "deal" on the coco levy issue:

1. It was not only Efren Villaseñor but the general assembly of the Bishops-Ulama-Priests-Pastors-Farmers-Lumad Conference (BUPPFALUC) who asked me to invite Mr. Eduardo Cojuangco to a dialogue. The assembly took place on July 24, 2001 in Mati, Davao Oriental. The farmer-members of the assembly belong to PKSMNN headed my Mr. Villaseñor.

2. In my invitation to Mr. Cojuangco, I gave three dates for our dialogue—Sept. 26, 27 and 28. He chose 26. He came to my residence in Davao City with persons whom I met for the first time: Mr. Ramon Ang, Mr. Dante Ang and Atty. Jacinto. I did not expect Mr. Cojuangco would honor my invitation but when he did, I was surprisingly happy. At this first dialogue, Mr. Dante Ang helped us clarify the issues. He later introduced himself to me as the publisher of the Manila Times and cousin of Ramon Ang.

3. When I could not anymore answer some questions of Mr. Cojuangco, I asked permission if I could invite some farmer leaders to come over to the Archbishop's House that same evening of Sept. 26. He consented and they agreed on certain points of a future agreement. Then, Mr. Cojuangco assured them that he would convince the Cocofed officials to agree if Archbishop Capalla would accompany him and if all coco farmers would also agree. We accepted his promise. The farmer leader agreed to get united.

4. Our next dialogue took place on Oct. 18 at Pasig City. This time, Mayor Clara Lobregat was present with her lawyer, Atty. Del Rosario. The three previous companions of Mr. Cojuangco were also present. When I could not again answer some questions, I asked if some farmer leaders could be allowed to join us. They consented and I called the farmer leaders who were nearby to join us. There were more major points that were agreed upon and a formal agreement was to be forged and signed in the near future. It was in this dialogue that Ms Lobregat asked me if President Macapagal knew about this dialogue. I said, I was informed that she knew about my attempts at bringing together the two groups.

5. The last dialogue was held in my residence in Davao City on Oct. 28 not Sept. 27 as reported in the papers. We scheduled our 7th BUPPFALUC Assembly also on that day hoping that some good news could be presented to them after the dialogue. Mr. Cojuangco, Mr. Ramon Ang, Mr. Dante Ang, Atty. Jacinto, Ms Lobregat and Atty. Del Rosario came. I invited Mr. Villaseñor, 12 leaders of national farmer organizations and a Muslim Aleem. Mr. Dante Ang again helped me clarify many points in Tagalog. With the help of the two lawyers, the three parties signed a "Declaration of Unity" on "salient points" of the proposed agreement of coconut farmers seeking the immediate resolution of the coconut levy funds, particularly the 31 percent San Miguel Corp. shares of stocks of the CIIF. Ms Lobregat signed for Cocofed, the 12 farmer leaders with Mr. Villasor and Aleem Adilao signed for the coco farmers, while Mr. Cojuangco and I signed our names as witnesses.

6. Then at about 2 p.m. of Oct. 28, I brought all of them to the assembly of the BUPPFALUC numbering more than 200, composed of farmers, priest, pastors, muslims, lumads and religious sisters which was meeting at that time in a nearby hotel. The assembly expenses were paid by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and not by Mr. Cojuangco as reported in some papers. At my suggestion, the agreement was read in English by Mr. Villaseñor and translated in Tagalog by Mr. Dante Ang. Mr. Cojuangco and Ms Lobregat gave short speeches on the need for unity and an amicable settlement for the sake of poor farmers and farmer workers nationwide. Mr. Cojuangco commented that perhaps St. Jude Thaddeus whose feast falls on Oct. 28 was responsible for the reconciliation.

7. We ended up by me informing everyone that the agreement was temporary and it will be formalized in Manila very soon and will be sent as a proposal to President Macapagal who will be requested to issue the appropriate executive order. Then we will give a press conference so the nation could be informed. My last word was to say that the church people like myself are in this because our role is that of a reconciler of persons and groups through a meaningful and respectful dialogue. This means that I have to trust everyone because everyone is capable of doing good and the purpose of dialogue is to surface that goodness.

8. From the above brief narrative, it is clear, at least from my understanding of the events, that the President knew, not about the deal/agreement because we could not have known of it before Oct. 28, but only my initiatives for dialogue. She must have been informed after Oct. 28 of these salient points to be included in the EO. As far as I can recall, her name would be mentioned if it was in reference to the EO. The name of PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac was never mentioned in all our discussions with the farmers. Contrary to some newspaper reports, I did not get the impression, not even a hint, that there was some deal between Mr. Cojuangco and the President. I was only informed that the P50 billion, if released, would greatly help the economy, something that she would be happy about.

9. Since Mr. Dante Ang came with Mr. Cojuangco and his cousin, Mr. Ramon Ang on Sept. 26, it was correct for him to conclude as reported in the papers that I invited him. In fact in the process of our dialogue, I would literally invite him to clarify things for me. But my first formal invitation to dialogue was addressed only to Mr. Cojuangco. So it is also correct for me to say, when questioned by Mr. Jose Taruc of dzRH, that I did not invite Mr. Dante Ang in the first place simply because I did not know him and his coming along with Mr. Cojuangco.

10. What prompted me and other members of the BUPPFALUC to invite Mr. Cojuangco and Ms Lobregat to dialogue was the information from the Mindanao farmers themselves that they were desperate due to grinding poverty while some of them were already entertaining the use of violence ala Abu Sayyaf. I had the impression that the farmer leaders of the national organizations belonging to the PKSMNN represented all the coco farmers and farm workers nationwide, and they were united or beginning to be so. I was also informed that it would be possible for the President to issue an EO allowing the use of the interest on the 31 percent of CIIF shares in San Miguel Corp. while the public or private character of the coco levy fund is yet to be decided either by legislation or judicial decision, and that all other cases against Mr. Cojuangco are left to the courts to decide. I was also touched by the vehemence with which the Mindanao Coco Farmers—Christian, Muslim and Lumads—expressed their disappointment at the failed efforts of previous administrations at resolving the issue and 15 years is too long for them to wait while wallowing in abject poverty. Those were the reasons why the church sector of the BUPPFALUC is convinced of the moral imperative of the coco levy fund recovery in favor of the poor farmers.—**ARCHBISHOP FERNANDO R. CAPALLA, chair, BUPPFALUC, Bishops-Ulama Forum, D5 Kimberly Building, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Iligan City**

Unsettled by military operations in S. Tagalog

TASK Force Tanggol Karapatan, a broad alliance of various caused oriented group in Southern Tagalog, is deeply concerned over the intensification of military operations in Southern Tagalog provinces which has resulted in the evacuation of more than 70 individuals and reconcentration of hundreds of farmers and tribal folks.

We are bothered by the massive deployment of military troops in the region—13 battalions in all, six of which are in Oriental Mindoro. Human rights organizations monitoring the effects of militarization on peasant and tribal communities reported 148 cases of human rights violations that has affected 1,306 individuals and 4,412 individuals committed during the conduct of military operations or involving soldiers, policemen, rebel returnees or paramilitary recruits.

We are horrified by the blatant disregard for human life displayed by those who killed community leaders like Roger Fernando and Rolando Cabagay of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro who were assassinated in their homes in front of their families, and the four boar hunters in Montalban, Rizal who were mercilessly shot, tortured and killed by Special Action Forces on patrol. We are appalled by the arrogance of the officers and men under the Task Force Banahaw/204th Brigade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who have scorned and violated the very laws that they have sworn to uphold and defend such as in the case of Larry Aparato whom they have physically and mentally tortured and denied the right to due process of law. We protest the beating and harassment of helpless and poor farmers, tribal folks and other innocent civilians that have become common during the conduct of military operations. We are deeply disturbed by the fact that families are forced to leave their homes to evacuate or reconcentrate to other homes or communities, fearing for their safety as the military accuses them of being NPA sympathizers.

We appeal to all concerned to help bring back peace in the people's communities by supporting their call for the government to stop military operations in the region, and to pull-out the abusive Task Force Banahaw from the region. They are also asking the government not to allow the military to put up camps in their communities. Victims of human rights violations should also be indemnified.—**NANCY RADA, spokesperson, Task Force Tanggol Karapatan, Liza Compound, Barangay 4, Sto. Tomas, Batangas**

Where is the amnesty in a tax amnesty?

THE PROPOSAL of Mayor Sonny Belmonte of Quezon City to auction off the property of delinquent real estate taxpayers is ill-timed and ill-advised. Even if a tax amnesty is given it is not a true amnesty. Amnesty entails pardon or forgiveness but what a tax amnesty means is that the penalties and interest on the full amount is condoned while the original amount is still to be shouldered by the people. If all past amnesties were true then all would have started with a clean state and there would be no arrears to collect. It therefore works mainly as an incentive for tax payment.

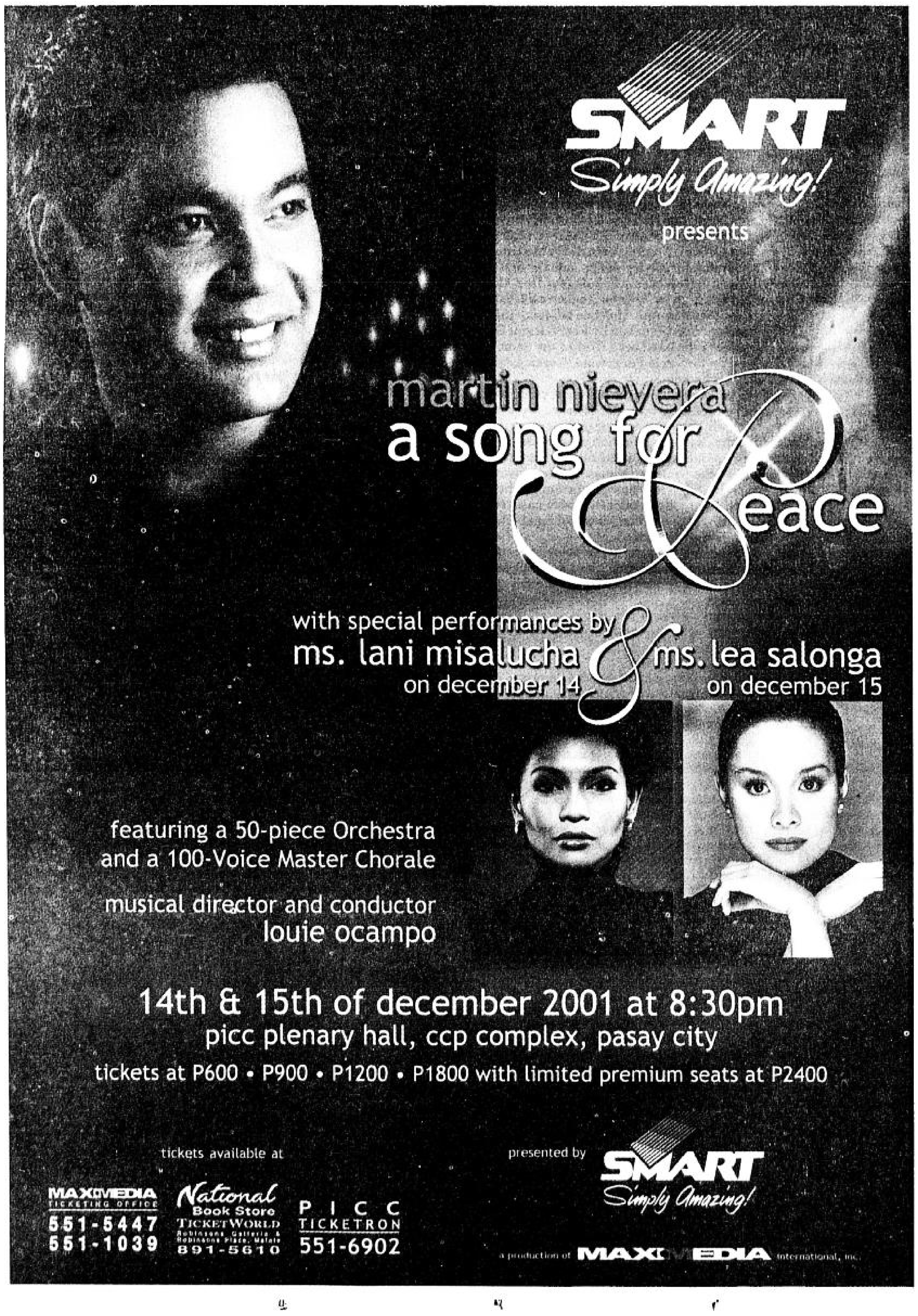
Times are hard. While unemployment and prices are on the rise, salaries remain low. The proposal would practically evict rightful property owners from their homes. While the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is trying to find ways to deliver land and houses to squatters, we have the prospect of having landowners becoming squatters in then own homes. Of what use would it be for the poor who can't buy food much less land be given it by the national government when the city government can simply take it away. It would be better to sell it and squat again.

I am not from Quezon City but I appeal to the mayor to rethink this plan which threatens the right of abode of at least 10,000 families. As the President puts it "having the minimum basic needs is also a human right."—**OSCAR S. LABRADOR, 1413 Batangas St., Sta. Cruz, Manila**

Montayre fabricating stories?

THE NOV. 30 INQUIRER headline story by reporters Armand Nocum and Carlito Pablo said that "Montayre said Capalla was fooled into believing that the deal had the go-signal of PCGG chair Haydee Yorac."

If the report is correct, Montayre must be fabricating stories maliciously. The name of Haydee Yorac was never mentioned by the farmers during a general assembly held in Mati, Davao Oriental, on July 24, 2001, they requested me to invite Eduardo Cojuangco to a dialogue.—**FERNANDO R. CAPALLA, archbishop, Archdiocese of Davao, F. Torres St., Davao City**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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

New terror attacks likely, US says

WASHINGTON—The US administration warned Monday that more terror attacks were likely, as US forces zeroed in on the suspected Afghan hideout of Osama bin Laden, suspected of masterminding deadly Sept. 11 suicide attacks on US cities.

Meanwhile, Afghan delegates meeting in Germany agreed to a structure of a post-Taliban government, but possible disagreement over an interim leader emerged after the powerful Northern Alliance proposed its own candidate.

Homeland security chief Tom Ridge said US officials had received credible threats of new attacks, but said these were not specific and did not indicate how or where the attacks would be carried out.

Ridge did not say whether Bin Laden or his militant al-Qaida network were believed to be behind the threat, the third mentioned by US authorities in recent weeks.

The warning came as an anti-Taliban commander in eastern Afghanistan said an operation to flush out al-Qaida members was imminent after US warplanes pounded the area for days.

Eight weeks of persistent US air strikes have enabled Afghan fighters to oust the Taliban regime that had sheltered and protected the al-Qaida militants, many of them Arabs.

The ouster has left a power vacuum in Afghanistan, and rival factions were working on finalizing a power-sharing plan in Bonn, as tribal forces closed in on the Taliban's last bastion, battling for control of the airport outside Kandahar.

The three-pronged advance on the southern city was backed by near-constant US air strikes.

US warplanes also targeted the area around Tora Bora, an intricate cave complex in the remote mountains of eastern Afghanistan that could shelter Bin Laden.

Bin Laden was recently located in the region and was sent a message Friday asking him to negotiate his fate, according to Haji Mohammad Zaman, a military commander of eastern Nangarhar province.

Negotiations also were held with al-Qaida fighters in the Tora Bora complex.

"I sent 10 people with a message to the Arabs, saying 'You must leave our place. If you cannot find the way, we will find the way for you. You must talk to the UN, they must come and you will go with them, they will be responsible for your life,'" Zaman said.

But his offer appears to have been rebuffed.

"We have already a lot of troops to fight against terrorism and Osama," he said. "Within the next couple of days we will start our job."

Zaman said he did not know whether the Saudi-born millionaire was still in the area, where locals say mujaheedin fighting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s fortified and expanded the complex with new tunnels and large caches of arms.

A spokesperson for the US-led coalition said coalition forces were on the ground in the area, but he would not confirm claims they were preparing to search the caves.

It also was unclear whether US forces may eventually join Pashtun tribal forces on an assault on Kandahar.

More than 1,000 US marines have been deployed within striking distance of the city for more than a week, and have significantly increased their firepower in recent days.

Forces loyal to former Kandahar governor Gul Agha claimed to have captured half of the Kandahar airport just outside the city, after fierce fighting with Taliban troops and their al-Qaida supporters.

A top Afghan aide said 11 al-Qaida fighters from Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia were killed, and anti-Taliban forces seized a building that appeared to have been used as an al-Qaida office. *AFP*

Afghans agree to share power in new gov't

QANUNI

BONN—Rival Afghan groups meeting in Germany on Tuesday took a historic first step to bringing peace to Afghanistan by agreeing to share power in a post-Taliban interim government, the United Nations announced.

After more than a week of grueling negotiations, the groups approved a detailed UN blueprint that provides for a six-month interim administration, followed by an 18-month transitional government, as well as the deployment of an international security force.

The accord also provides for a symbolic role for the 87-year-old former king Mohammed Zahir Shah, who would preside over a Loya Jirga—or traditional grand assembly of elders—to be held six months after the deal is put into effect.

"There was a general mood of jubilation when the meeting was adjourned," said Ahmad Fawzi, the spokesperson of UN special representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi.

Fawzi also said that all four Afghan groups—including the powerful Northern Alliance and exiled royalists—had also proposed their nominees for government jobs, removing a key hurdle to the formation of a post-Taliban administration.

A top Alliance official said that the Alliance had put forward an ethnic Pashtun royalist and tribal leader, Hamid Karzai, as interim Afghan prime minister to head a planned 29-member executive Cabinet.

The Alliance source, who requested not to be named, described Karzai—currently battling the Taliban outside Kandahar—as an ideal candidate to head an interim authority because of his ethnic credentials and record as an anti-Soviet combatant.

Diplomats said Karzai was likely to be chosen in preference to the mild-mannered ethnic Uzbek royalist Abdul Sattar Sirat, proposed by the ex-king's delegation.

The Alliance source said its ethnic Tajik leadership troika—Yunis Qanuni, Abdullah Abullah and Gen. Mohammad Qasim Fahim—had been nominated to hold the interior, defense, and foreign ministries respectively.

Northern Alliance forces seized the Afghan capital Kabul on Nov. 13 and most of the rest of the country after some five weeks of United States air strikes on Taliban positions, and have a powerful network of battle-hardened commanders. *AFP*

Top Taliban defectors flee to Pakistan

LONDON—In the first major split, senior Taliban officials have fled Afghanistan to set up a moderate splinter group in Pakistan, a British daily reported Tuesday.

The dissident members believe that hardliners such as Mullah Muhammad Omar, should give up the Taliban's spiritual home of Kandahar and sue for peace, the Times said.

Ten of the 12 defectors escaped to Pakistan's North West Frontier Province where the Times said they are believed to be holding talks with Pakistani Pashtun leaders.

They will be hoping to strengthen the Pashtun bloc in postwar Afghanistan and prevent the Tajik and Uzbek-dominated Northern Alliance from seizing too much power.

The three most important dissidents are Mullar Abdul Kadir, the former governor of Nangarhar province—considered to be the No. 3 in the Taliban hierarchy—Mullar Amir Khan Muttaqi, the former education minister, and Abdul Rehman Zahid, the former deputy foreign minister.

Taliban sources quoted in Pakistani English-language paper The News and also in the Times accused the dissidents of betrayal and treachery.

"They have deserted at a time when Mullah Omar and other Taliban leaders are fighting in Kandahar despite the difficulties," said one senior Taliban leader.

The other defectors according to the paper included: Abdul Hakim Mujahid, a former Taliban representative in New York, and Maulvi Hadi, the former governor of the eastern province of Kunar.

The rest, listed in the papers, were senior Taliban officials. *AFP*

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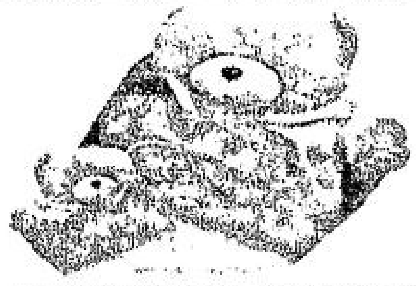

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HINT: Check out *Lifestyle's Food section* on Thursday, December 6 for Inquirer's My Wish Box

TAKE-HOME SANTAS

A student dressed as Santa Claus makes a face during the annual meeting of the "Rent A Santa Claus" service of Universities of Berlin Dec. 3. The rent service costs about 54 German marks ($25).

REUTERS

China slams US missile plan anew

BEIJING—China Tuesday renewed its opposition to the proposed US missile defense shield, just hours after Washington destroyed a mock warhead over the Pacific in its third successful testing of the controversial system.

"China's position on the missile defense system is clear and consistent, we are not in favor of the missile defense system to be developed by the US," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said.

The system if developed would harm international efforts on disarmament and arms control and would destroy the present global strategic balance, Zhang said.

Much of a recently established strategic partnership between China and Russia has been based on joint opposition to the controversial missile defense system, which if built would violate the US-Russian 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM).

Washington has vigorously courted Moscow in an effort to scrap or amend the treaty, but so far the Russians have refused to set aside the treaty even with promises of deep cuts in the US strategic nuclear arsenals.

"I think both China and Russia share the same understanding that the missile defense system is not conducive to international efforts on disarmament and arms control or the global strategic balance," Zhang said.

"We maintain that all sides should conduct serious and conscientious dialogue so as to find a solution that accommodates the security interests of all sides and does not harm the international efforts on disarmament and arms control."

China has also feared that such a system could be deployed in East Asia and has bristled at the idea that the system would protect Taiwan from the mainland's growing missile arsenal.

China maintains that Taiwan is an integral part of the Chinese mainland and has threatened to use force to reunify the rebel island if it should ever declare independence.

Before the most recent test, Pentagon officials had said that a successful test would clear the way for progressively more realistic tests with more decoys and other counter-measures representing more varied classes of threats. *AFP*

Japan considers female ascent

TOKYO—Japan's ruling party on Tuesday began deliberations on revising the law to allow women to ascend to the imperial throne, amid growing calls for female succession following the birth of a baby princess, news reports said.

The Research Commission on the Constitution of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party held a study session three days after Crown Princess Masako gave birth to her first child after eight years of marriage.

Although the as yet unnamed infant is the daughter of Crown Prince Naruhito, heir to the Chrsysanthemum Throne, she is not allowed to succeed him under the 1948 Imperial Household Law.

If the baby had been a boy, he would have immediately become second in line to the throne.

The commission members focused their attention on the issue of marriage for a possible female reigning monarch by revising the law on a male-only line of succession, Kyodo News agency said.

If a female monarch is enthroned, the issues of how to find a male consort and whether the change would mean an expanded number of royal members requiring financial support from the national government would need to be addressed, the news agency said.

Hiroshi Takahashi, a veteran royal correspondent, acknowledged expert on imperial issues and executive director of Kyodo News, was invited to attend the session as a guest.

He said it was best if the first child—regardless of sex—could ascend to the throne, according to Kyodo.

"The revision of the law will not work out well without obtaining a national consensus after thorough debate," Takahashi was quoted as saying.

Nobuyuki Hanashi, head of the commission, said he would hold discussions on the issue after listening to opinions from more experts.

No confirmation of the reports was available from LDP officials.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has already said he personally had no objection to an empress ruling Japan, but urged caution.

"We must carefully consider it," Koizumi told reporters on Saturday when asked if Japan should revise the law. "But it is too early now to reach a conclusion." *AFP*

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Africans to create peace force

KHARTOUM—The heads of state and representatives of five African countries decided Monday to create a regional peacekeeping force for the Central African Republic (CAR) during a summit in the Sudanese capital, officials said.

The force will be made up of soldiers from the 16 nations in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), according to the resolution adopted by the CAR, Sudan, Chad, Libya and Zambia.

The ultimate size and the date of the deployment were not specified.

The one-day summit in Khartoum was organized under the Comesa organization and was attended by presidents Ange Felix Patasse of the CAR, Omar al-Beshir of Sudan, Idriss Deby of Chad, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia and Libyan African Unity Secretary Ali Abdel Salem Triki.

The Organization of African Unity's Secretary General Amara Essy and a representative of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also took part in the talks.

Their aim was to find ways of tackling unrest in the CAR, where a May coup bid worsened military and ethnic divisions and led to an army showdown last month.

The abortive coup unleashed 10 days of fighting in the CAR capital Bangui, leaving scores of people dead and displacing tens of thousands of others.

Former military ruler Andre Kolingbe and his ethnic Yakoma supporters from the south of the country were blamed for the uprising against President Patasse, a northerner.

In a subsequent crackdown, Patasse sacked former close aides. Libya sent troops last month to help him rout former armed forces chief General Francois Bozize, who was later accused of a hand in plotting another coup.

The CAR government wants Chad to extradite Bozize to stand trial in his home country but Chad has so far refused to do this.

Thousands of Yakomas had six months earlier fled Bangui amid reports of atrocities and reprisals by the Army, but the military standoff early in November pitted Patasse against fellow northerners. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, December 5, 2001
1st Week of Advent

1st Reading:	**Is 25:6-10**
Gospel:	**Mt 15:29-37**

Jesus went to the shore of Lake Galilee, and then went up into the hills where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the dumb, the blind, the lame, the crippled, and many with other infirmities. The people carried them to the feet of Jesus, and he healed them. All were astonished when they saw the dumb speaking, the lame walking, the crippled healed and the blind able to see; so they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "I am filled with compassion for these people; they have already followed me for three days and now have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away fasting, or they may faint on the way." His disciples said to him, "And where shall we find enough bread in the wilderness to feed such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They answered, "Seven, and a few small fish."

So Jesus ordered the people to sit on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the small fish and gave thanks to God. He broke them and gave them to his disciples, who distributed them to the people.

They all ate and were satisfied, and the leftover broken pieces filled seven wicker baskets. Four thousand men had eaten, besides women and children. Then Jesus sent away the crowd, got into the boat and went to Magdala.

Commentary

It is difficult, almost impossible, to imagine how a multitude could partake of a meal together in a country where norms and rituals regulating the pureness of food were so abundant and rigorous, considering the kind of food that was served and the people in whose company they ate it. Perhaps this was the great miracle of Jesus—that he was able to gather all the people together and make everyone share in the food, disregarding all rules that set the boundaries among peoples, among the clean and unclean. We are all brothers and sisters in the kingdom, children of the same Father. Jesus broke the matrix of that culture and paved the way for the new culture of the kingdom.

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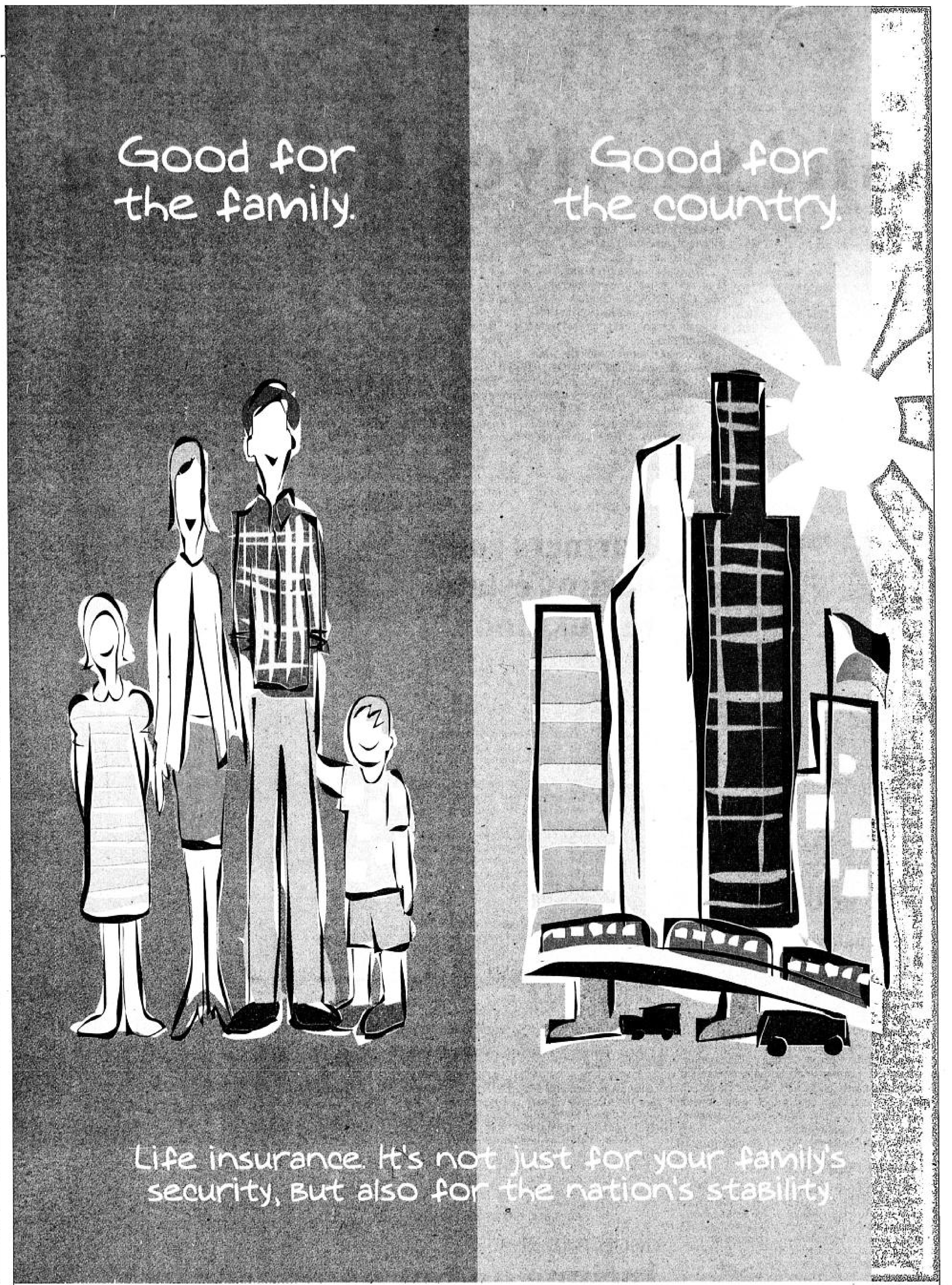

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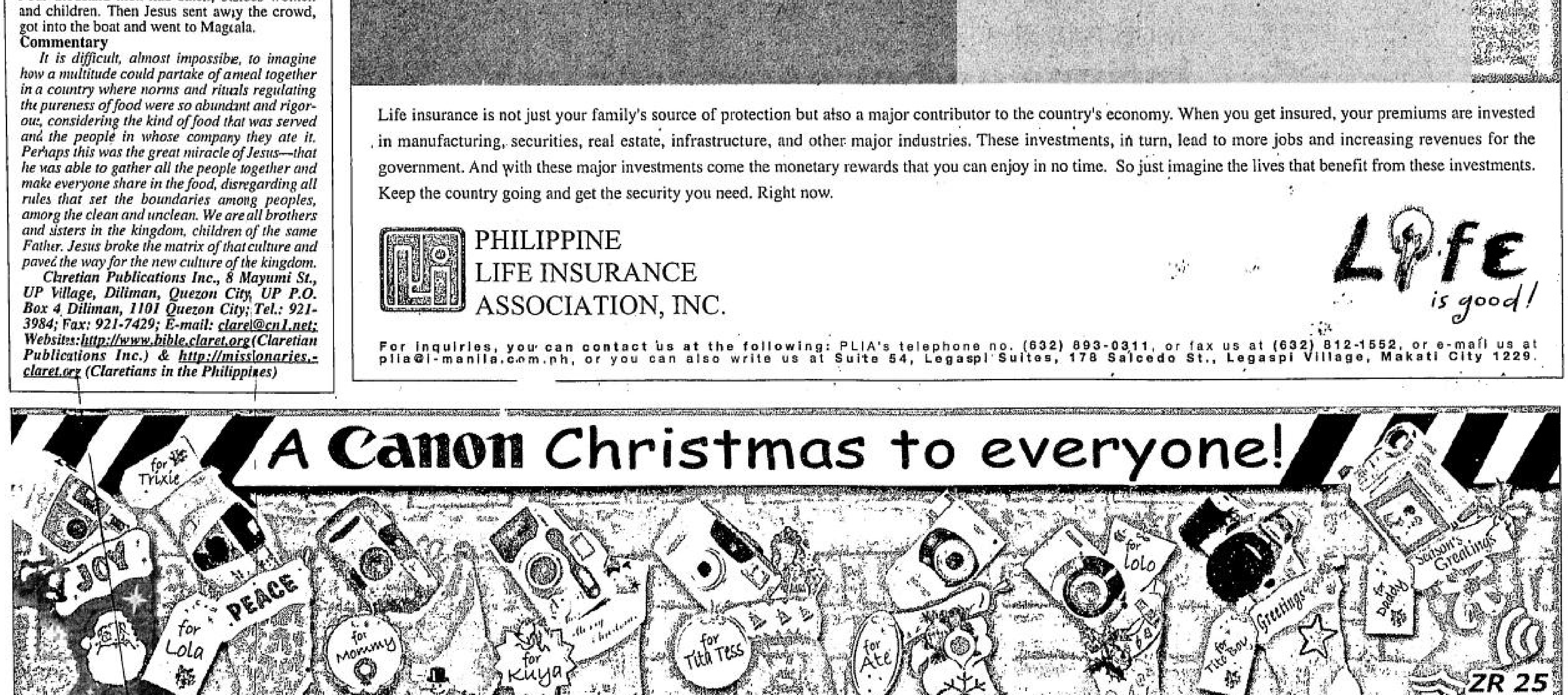

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Girl survives hell in pa's hands

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Finally, she has found the courage to reveal it all.

Melody Calonge, 11, the lone survivor in the attack that killed her mother and two younger sisters, gave details of the murders and the abuses they had gone through allegedly at the hands of her father, Dionisio Calonge.

Melody told police that her father hacked and killed her mother, Rosita, 35, and her sisters Dony Rose, 9, and Kimberly, 7, inside their house at Sitio Lumoy in Barangay Cabuluan here at dawn on Dec. 1.

Calonge, 37, however, denied the murders, and claimed that somebody attacked his family. "Only that I could not recognize them because it was dark," he said.

"But if the court will find me guilty, I am ready to face the consequences," said Calonge, who is confined at the Veterans' Regional Hospital here for wounds that police reports said were self-inflicted.

In the next room is Melody, who is being treated for hack wounds.

Melody described Calonge as an "extremely ruthless father," whom they feared.

"Everything that he ordered should be obeyed. If he tells us not to eat our meals, we will not, even if we're so hungry," she said.

"At the slightest mistake, we all get beaten up. He would hit us with any object he laid his hands on—chairs, pieces of wood. He would often punch or kick us."

Though exhausted after fetching water from a well 500 meters from their house, the children would often earn Calonge's ire only because of a bit of delay.

"He would douse on us the water we had just brought in then toss us out of the window," a tearful Melody said.

"There was not a day that my mother did not suffer from (my father's) beating."

Calonge would wait for money from sales of vegetables his wife grew in a nearby farm. Asked what her father was doing while waiting for her mother, Melody said: "Nothing. He just sat or slept in the house."

As her punishment, Calonge would not allow his wife to eat her meals. "(My mother) just watched us as we ate. We pitied her all the time," Melody said.

According to her sisters, Rosita was left without a choice, despite the abuse she suffered at the hands of her husband.

"I cannot leave my husband because of the threat that if I did, he would kill my parents or my children," Lourdes Amlag, 44, Rosita's elder sister, quoted her as saying.

Melody said they had often sought the help of barangay officials. She said her father would always promise not to commit any abuses against them again.

"But as soon as they (officials) leave, he would hit all of us again," she said.

Early morning on Dec. 1, Melody said she awoke to see her father walking around their house with a flashlight and, without warning, swing his bolo at her mother, prompting her mother to scamper for safety.

"Once outside, my mother screamed for help, but my father might have caught up with her," Melody said.

She said her father then approached her and repeatedly hacked her. She said he then hacked and killed her two younger sisters.

Shocked and pained from all her wounds, Melody lay motionless, and, with the glow of the flashlight, observed what was happening.

Thinking that his wife and daughters were dead, Calonge scooped with his hands some blood from the victims and smudged it all over his body, Melody said.

Minutes later, Melody's grandparents arrived and were stunned to discover the sprawled bodies of Rosita and her children.

In a corner sat Calonge, bleeding from a cut in the chin and a stab wound in the abdomen.

Police, however, believed these wounds were self-inflicted, in Calonge's apparent attempt to commit suicide.

"*Lola* (grandmother)," Melody whispered to her grandmother when asked who did it. "*Ni* Papa (It was Papa)."

Last Sunday, Rosita and her two daughters were buried in a grave near their house in Barangay Cabuluan.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience widespread rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of Southern Luzon, rest of Visayas and rest of Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/02/01

ROUNDUP

Radio manager killed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The assistant manager of Bombo Radyo Philippines in Koronadal, South Cotabato was killed while a companion was injured when a speeding jeepney hit them as they were crossing the national highway there on Monday. Rizzie Bedua-Lengasa, in his early 20s, died on the spot while Gina Galano, secretary of the station manager, was rushed to the hospital. Police said they would try to find out if Lengasa's hard-hitting commentaries have something to do with the incident. The driver, whose name was being withheld, is now under police custody.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 die in road crashes

DAVAO CITY—Two persons were killed while 23 others were injured in two road accidents in Toril and Bunawan districts here Saturday. The first accident happened around 11 a.m. in Tibungco, when a dump truck, a public utility vehicle and a motorcycle collided, killing two women and injuring 11 others. Killed were jeepney passengers Gina Capoy, 26, and Weena Acdog, 39. Four hours later, another accident involving a passenger bus, jeepney and six-wheel truck happened in Sirawan, Toril District where 12 persons were reported hurt. The Yellow Bus Line unit and the jeepney plunged into a 10-foot ravine, injuring most of the bus passengers.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Send Christmas mails early

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippine Postal Corp. (PhilPost) office here is reminding people planning to send Christmas cards and packages here or abroad to mail them early. Odith Cadano of the PhilPost said letters and cards intended for the Asia-Pacific should be mailed in any PhilPost outlet before Dec. 10; those for the Middle East before Dec. 7; and those for Europe, Africa, North and South America before today.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Illegal fisher arrested

TAGKAWAYAN, Quezon—Police and fish wardens arrested an illegal fisher operating in the municipal water of Sitio Aplaya, Barangay Katimo here. The suspect, Rolando Lorito, 35, was allegedly caught in the act of using a fishing gear with fine mesh nets which is banned. Confiscated from Lorito were a motorized boat and several kilos of fresh assorted fish.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Double tragedy

MAUBAN, Quezon—A woman from Sitio Piapi, Barangay Cagsiay III here, reported to police on Thursday that her husband was shot dead by four assailants. The victim went with his daughter and a certain Baldomero Malinte, 19, to the forest on Nov. 23 to gather firewood. In the forest, four armed men appeared from behind and shot the victim dead. They held captive the victim's daughter and Malinte for two days and freed them on Nov. 26. On their way home, however, Malinte allegedly raped the girl four times.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Jueteng' men fall

AGDANGAN, Quezon—Four suspects were arrested by the local police while collecting jueteng bets. Police identified the suspects as Roberto Viray, Romeo Ramos, Nestor Pizara and Victor Manzano—all residents here. Confiscated from them were 20 pieces of *lastillas* and an undetermined amount of cash.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmers enter, occupy estate in Bukidnon

SUMILAO, Bukidnon—At least 70 farmers on Monday occupied 47 hectares of the estate of the late Salvador Carlos despite the absence of an authority from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and opposition from the land's caretakers.

In occupying the estate, the members of the Mapalad Multi-Purpose Cooperative and their leaders destroyed the fence of the Carlos Estate as caretakers barred them from entering through the gates.

Peter Tuminhay, chair of the Mapalad Multi-Purpose Cooperative, said they occupied the land based on the authority given to them by the former owner of the property.

In a letter to the Mapalad farmers, Jose Ignacio Carlos, son of the late Salvador Carlos, allegedly wrote: "This is to confirm our discussion last October in Manila granting the Mapalad farmers the occupation and cultivation of the 47.5881 hectares of my late father, Salvador Carlos, located in Sumilao, Bukidnon."

But Elena Reyes, spokesperson of the caretakers, did not allow the Mapalad farmers to enter the estate.

The farmers overheard Reyes telling Jose Ignacio Carlos over the cellular phone, "*I*-prove *mo na wala kaming karapatan dito.*"

Reyes said they have occupation rights over the property as they were authorized by the late Salvador Carlos and that they were the rightful beneficiaries under the Agrarian Reform Program.

Reyes said the caretakers are the legitimate workers on the farm.

The 99-hectare land is covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The DAR identified the Mapalad farmers as beneficiaries of the estate. Of the 99 hectares, 14 hectares were given to the heirs of Salvador Carlos.

In 1999, DAR gave 19 hectares to the Mapalad farmers after they lost their case before the Supreme Court. They were then claiming 144 hectares of land beside the Carlos Estate in San Vicente in Sumilao. The land was owned by Norberto Quisumbing.

Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAREDEVILS EV ESPIRITU

Igorot drivers are considered among the country's best for being able to navigate the winding stretches of the Cordillera even during storms or landslides. These three took a brief rest to pose for a picture.

Study seeks to find real Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The World Bank has funded a social assessment survey to find out the real situation in conflict areas in Mindanao.

Dr. Fermin Adriano, team leader of the funding institution's Mindanao Social Assessment Project, said while everybody agrees that there is a need to help the victims of the continuing conflict, it was observed that policies are drafted not based on the real situation but from the perspective of legislators and political analysts.

"Most of the perspectives are usually up there not down here (in the communities)," Adriano told reporters here.

He said the World Bank expects the survey to "capture the sentiments, grievances and aspirations of the conflict victims and Mindanaoans, in general."

Adriano said the cost of the social assessment project is about $900,000. It would be done in three levels—the household survey, the focus group discussions that would include combatants, and the women and children survey—to get the desired information.

Adriano said the assessment project would also include "key informed interviews" where recommendations or opinions on how to approach problems would be collated.

"We will get 1,800 samples, which is a pretty good sample size in Mindanao. Pulse Asia has only 1,200 in the entire country," he said.

The World Bank has also partnered with at least three non-government organizations in Mindanao for the project.

Adriano said the survey would be done in Matalam and Kabacan, North Cotabato; Buluan in Maguindanao; Lutayan in Sultan Kudarat; and New Corella and Talaingod in Davao del Norte.

The social welfare department earlier reported that there are 188,575 families or more than a million individuals adversely affected by the series of conflict in Mindanao as of Nov. 6.

More than 1,000 civilians were also either killed or wounded since April 2000 to Nov. 6 this year.

The social welfare department also recorded more than 9,000 houses damaged, 6,455 of which were destroyed in conflict areas since last year.

Adriano said the results of the survey would become the benchmark for future loan commitments to Mindanao.

However, he said that because of the need for immediate assistance and relief operations, the funding agency has committed $15 million for the relief and rehabilitation of affected families. The fund, he said, would be coursed to the social welfare department.

The World Bank expects the survey to be finished by May next year. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GOOD, BAD NEWS

Income up but more poor in W. Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Western Visayas recorded the second highest growth in annual family income last year, government statistics showed.

The region posted a growth rate in family income of 28.3 percent, according to preliminary results of the 2000 Family Income and Expenditures Survey of the National Statistics Office (NSO).

It was second only to Eastern Visayas, which posted the highest increase at 35.6 percent. Western Visayas is followed by the Cordillera Autonomous Region (26.2 percent), Cagayan Valley (24.3 percent) and Southern Tagalog (23.3 percent).

The average annual income in the region, for a family of six, stands at P92,643 in 2000 from P86,770 in 1997. However, it is lower than the national average last year of P118,413.

Average family expenditure in the region reached P79,047 last year from P78,612 in 1997.

Net of inflation, Western Visayas had the second highest growth rate in average family income at 6.8 percent next to Eastern Visayas with 11.1 percent.

But the positive ratings do not necessarily mean economic growth and an overall improvement in the standard of living of residents in the region.

Guia Sanico, National Statistical Coordinating Board (NSCB) statistical coordinator III, said the high growth rate in average income in the region could be offset by the disparity of incomes of families.

The survey showed a movement toward a widening income disparity in Western Visayas as well as in Eastern Visayas, Southern Mindanao, Central Visayas and Cagayan Valley.

Western Visayas registered a six-year high in poverty incidence last year, according to data from the NSCB.

The NSCB regional office reported that the number of families living below the poverty line increased from 39.9 percent in 1997 to 43 percent last year, the same level recorded in 1994.

Families whose annual per capita income fell below the poverty threshold reached 526,072 in the region from 498,405 in 1997. This meant that about 3.1 million people were living below the poverty line out of the 6.2 million people in the region last year.

The poverty threshold is the amount a person needs to meet basic food and non-food requirements. It was pegged at P10,560 in 1997 and P12,646 in 1998.

The region's poverty incidence is sixth among 15 regions but it was highest in the Visayas.

Claims for 'rayuma' draining GSIS coffers

CABANATUAN CITY—Arthritis, loosely called by many as *rayuma*, caused the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to limp and bleed.

Several millions of pesos, according to INQUIRER sources, had been paid by the GSIS to its members for compensation claims for the osteo-arthritis ailment.

Many more members have pending claims. But they are fuming and are demanding an investigation of what they said was an irregularity.

Some of the 400 claimants at the GSIS branch here told the INQUIRER that it was unfair that the processing of their claims was stopped while thousands of others benefited from the same claim.

Eighty-one claimants here were paid amounts ranging from P35,000 to P60,000 this year, sources said.

Many of the claimants are now planning to ask Congress to investigate what they described as "arthritis anomaly." They said thousands of GSIS employees, including those who retired three years ago under a special retirement package, availed of the arthritis compensation.

The culprit behind the alleged irregularity, the INQUIRER learned, was the list of the occupational and compensable diseases in the primer on employees compensation program and a resolution and guidelines issued by the GSIS in December 1999.

In the list, which counted more than 20 diseases which, when acquired by government employee-members, are compensatory, is osteo-arthritis.

Arthritis is generally described by doctors as painful inflammation of the body's joints. Osteo is a prefix, which means bone.

The primer and guidelines were issued to implement the provisions of the GSIS Act of 1997 (Republic Act 8291), particularly relating to employees or workmen's compensation.

Starting in 1998, sources said, many GSIS employees in Manila who learned of the resolution and guidelines filed claims for arthritis compensation and were granted monetary benefits.

The amount given them, the sources added, was based on length of service and the salary of employees.

Having learned of the GSIS guidelines, several doctors in government hospitals also filed benefit claims for suffering from osteo-arthritis. Many of them had been paid, it was learned.

In Pampanga, the GSIS branch there was reported to have disbursed more than P18 million as payment for claims by members who reportedly suffered from osteo-arthritis.

Two weeks ago, processing of the claims from GSIS members here, was stopped.

The reason given was a memorandum issued by the office of the GSIS vice president for medical services to all branch managers and branch medical officers, saying there are "certain clarifications" that needed to be resolved.

One of these, an insider said, is the requirement that a member who is filing a claim must show proof that he or she had lost income due to osteo-arthritis.

There should also be proof, the insider said, that the claimant had been on sick leave due to osteo-arthritis.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Piatco scam bigger than BW, says Yasay

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two newly discovered irregularities and several onerous provisions make the "Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) scam bigger than the BW scam," Perfecto Yasay Jr., former Securities and Exchange Commission chief, said here.

Yasay, in a later interview, said it was ousted President Joseph Estrada who allowed the Piatco to amend its 1997 Terminal 3 concession agreement, which supposedly imposes grossly disadvantageous terms to the government.

"It was Estrada who gave it the go signal. Initially, he did not want to implement it because it was a project of the Ramos administration," said Yasay, now chair of the MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) that is opposing the passenger terminal project at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The terminal, now undergoing construction, is worth $650 million.

Eventually, this might be lost to the government through Piatco's right to mortgage the facility or end up as new debts because of the government's guarantee of 70 percent of the loans incurred by the firm to foreign lenders.

While Yasay earlier accused Estrada of making P3 billion from insider trading and stock price manipulation by 4,000 percent at BW Resources by its owner Dante Tan and intervening in the SEC investigation of the scandal, he did not say how much the deposed President supposedly made from the Piatco deal.

Estrada denied involvement in the BW stock market scandal.

The former President, according to him, eventually agreed on the prodding of businessman Manuel Zamora whose Security Bank was one of the project's original principals.

Zamora earlier denied pushing the Piatco contract.

Under Estrada, Yasay said Piatco's amended contract, signed in November 1998, was supplemented twice.

The August 1999 supplement freed Piatco from expenses and liabilities with third parties on maintenance, repair and replacement of all airport facilities and equipment owned and operated by the MIA.

It also gave Piatco the right to construct access roads connecting Terminal 2 and 3 at the Naia.

The September 2000 supplement gave Piatco the right to contract out the disposition, demolition and removal of waste materials, which went to Wintrack Builders Inc., a firm formed in October 1999 by Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Wintrack, according to him, is also the sub-contractor of earthwork activities of Takenaka Corp., the main building contractor of Terminal 3.

Maso has trained its ire not on Estrada but on Alvarez whom they sued for a P76-million plunder case before the Ombudsman last September.

Alvarez said the group has "nothing substantial" to pin him down on the case.

In a report, Maso members, who have long-term concessions with the MIA-Naia, expressed fears "they would not be able to continue servicing their airline customers when the foreign airlines transfer to Terminal 3."

Alvarez, according to Yasay, faced more troubles for staunchly defending the Piatco deal.

In a recent hearing of the House committee on good government, Yasay said it was discovered that the amended contract did not undergo new bidding and was not reviewed and approved by the National Economic and Development Authority.

Minutes of the committee hearing were not immediately available to confirm these claims by Yasay.

He said these processes are required for build-operate-and-transfer arrangements and for contracts that are substantially changed as was in the case of the Terminal 3 project.

MIA and Piatco lawyers, he noted, gave conflicting and false statements on whether the amended contract was approved by the Neda board.

He noted that the amended contract only cited the approval of the 1997 concession agreement and only expressed a "wish to amend, supplement and/or clarify certain provisions of the concession agreement, as well as to include additional provisions thereto."

Kidnappers demand ₱10M for Italian priest

PAGADIAN CITY—The Pentagon kidnapping gang is demanding P10 million in exchange for the release of an Italian priest who was kidnapped by the gang in Zamboanga del Sur in October, Lanao del Norte Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo said Monday.

Dimaporo is among several political leaders in Lanao working for the release of Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

"We hope that we would have a breakthrough," Dimaporo said of the negotiations he was undertaking with the Pentagon led by Faizal Marohombsar.

Even as he expressed optimism about securing Father Beppe's release, Dimaporo said he was maintaining the government's no ransom policy.

"President Arroyo's directive was very clear that we will negotiate but without any ransom involved," he said.

But while Dimaporo was claiming he was making progress in his efforts, speculation spread like wildfire here that the Italian missionary was already released for P3 million. *Hernan de la Cruz and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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2.) Customers must indicate their name, address, telephone number and signature on the raffle coupon and drop it at designated boxes, one at MC Home Builders' Depot in Makati and one at MC Home Depot in Ortigas. All entries must be in the drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. December 9, 2001.
3.) Raffle draw will be held on Monday, December 17, 2001 at MC Home Builders' Depot in Makati at 4:30 p.m. Prizes at stake at the raffle are:
Ten (10) Koppel (1 HP) .746 Kwh Airconditioning Units
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Five (5) (9cu. ft.) 27 M^3 GE Refrigerator
Five (5) Elba Gas Range
A DTI representative will be invited to witness the draw.
4.) A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize of higher value shall be awarded to him/her.
5.) All prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash. MC Home Builders' shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding Php 10,000.00.
6.) Winners will be notified by registered mail and telephone. Prizes can be claimed either at the Administration Office of MC Home Builders' Depot at EDSA corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City, Tel.: 893-3070 and Fax 812-9426 or at the Administration Office of MC Home Depot at 168 Ortigas corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel.: 636-6944 and Fax 634-2399 depending on what is specified on the registered notice of the winner-claimants.
7.) To claim their prizes, winners must present the letter of notification from MC Home Builders' Inc., or MC Home Depot, a valid ID (i.e.) passport, driver's license, SSS/TIN Card and the raffle claim stub for verification purposes..
8.) Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall automatically be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.
9.) Promo period is from November 30 to December 9, 2001 only.
10.) Employees of MC Home Depot - Ortigas, MC Home Builders' Inc. - Makati, its suppliers, concessionaires and participating sponsors, its advertising agency including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are not allowed to join the promo.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Pigs, prayers, promises for a poor Benguet town

By Maurice Malanes
Benguet

RIGHT after sunrise two weeks ago, a *manbunong* (traditional priest) faced the east, offered five pigs to *Kabunian* (Igorot term for God), and prayed for blessings and abundance for the fifth-class town of Bakun in Benguet.

Five men then pierced the hearts of the animals with sharpened reeds called *iwik*, and for a moment, the serene mountains, including the sacred Mount Kabunian, echoed the cries of the five pigs.

By mid-morning, people from the town's seven villages had gathered in Barangay Gambang to become part of what Bakun Mayor Bartolome Sacla called a "local history in the making."

The occasion was the inauguration of the Kankanaey-Bago Livelihood and Training Center, which aims to help uplift the 13,000 Kankanaey and Bago folk from their economic difficulties and powerlessness.

The center, the first in Benguet, is housed in a P1-million, four-story, 30 feet by 30 feet building.

Led by the town's officials, the villagers had a reason to be excited on Nov. 23. A Cabinet official graced the occasion—the first time a top national government official ever did so.

Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, which is directly under Malacañang, was not only excited but was inspired as well because the inauguration was not the usual ribbon-cutting ceremony. In fact, she didn't cut any ribbon at all.

Since the livelihood and training center emerged from the Kankanaey and Bago people's search to have their ancestral domain officially recognized, the inauguration of the center, according to Deles, "cuts close to the heart."

The facility, she said, represents a long clamor for indigenous peoples to live in a land that the government finally has recognized as their "sacred inheritance that you can bequeath to your children and children's children."

Big strides

After the Department of Environment and Natural Resources awarded them in March 1998 a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC), the Bakun folk made big strides in linking up with national and international agencies.

The CADC formally recognizes the right of the Kankanaey and Bago people to protect, use and manage their land and resources according to their own knowledge systems and practices.

Through the CADC, the people, through the homegrown Bakun Indigenous Tribes Organization (Bito), eventually linked up with the International Labor Organization-Inter-Regional Program to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and Self-Help Organization (ILO-Indisco).

The ILO agency helped provide technical and financial assistance to Bito, which has been officially recognized and tasked to oversee the protection, use and management of the 31,000 ancestral domain claims of the Bakun people.

The new livelihood and training center is just one of Bito's various program components, which include economic growth, social and human development, environmental protection and sustainable use of resources, and cultural development.

It doubles as a cooperative store for consumer goods and farm supplies and a center for training villagers on Bito's various program components.

'Tongtong,' 'muyong'

That the Kankanaey and Bago people have since revived their indigenous justice system, such as their *tongtong* (a system of resolving conflicts through elders' consensus) and resource use and protection practices, such as their *muyong* system, left an inspiring impression on Deles.

Through the *muyong*, a family or a clan maintains, protects and helps replenish a forest zone.

Community folk have since revived the *muyong* after logging and sawmill firms left the community in 1992 as they had demanded and when the official ban on commercial logging was imposed.

All the more, the upland folk strengthened their *muyong* after their CADC was issued in 1998.

"I feel renewed by your pioneering and untiring efforts and initiatives and enduring hope," Deles, in a speech, told the more than 1,000 upland folk and their officials who came for the center's inauguration.

"You say you are the poorest town, but you are not. You are rich in culture, cooperativism and industry."

For his part, Allain Perce, a representative of the ILO Manila country office, was impressed about how the beneficiaries of the Bito's community credit system called the RLF or revolving loan fund had a high repayment rate.

"This (high repayment rate) reflects your high degree of confidence and faith in your organization," Perce said.

Sealing a promise

Since it started in 1999, the RLF has served 656 beneficiaries, most of them investing their loans on backyard industries, such as piggeries, and on their commercial vegetable farms. The repayment rate has since averaged 98 percent, said Bito project manager Amos Beta-a.

Perce also cited ILO Convention 169, which reinforces the country's own Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act in recognizing the indigenous peoples' right to reclaim their ancestral land and resources.

SEN. Teresa Aquino-Oreta dances the Cordillera "tayaw" amid the offering of pigs for Kabunian, the Igorot God, during Benguet's founding anniversary on Nov. 24. Similar offerings of pigs were made by Bakun folk on Nov. 23 to ask for blessings and abundance for their fifth-class town.
EV ESPIRITU

The Bakun people, meantime, look forward to a promise by both Deles and Nora Ramos of the regional National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)—the awarding before yearend of the Kankanaey and Bago folk's Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title or CADT.

The upland folk hope that the CADT, which is more permanent than a CADC, will finally secure them and their land from mining and logging corporations and other business interests, which may try to encroach into Bakun.

According to Deles, President Macapagal-Arroyo has targeted to issue 100 land certificates nationwide, which include the CADTs, every year of her term. "Bakun will be among the first batch of beneficiaries (of these land certificates)," Deles said.

To help seal whatever national and local officials and Bito leaders pronounced and promised during the inauguration, the elders, through a ritual called *petik*, took turns in offering drops of rice and sugar cane wine to the gods and spirits of Bakun.

Other elders chanted prayers of hope, peace and progress through their extemporaneous song of poetry called *day-eng*.

Clad in softened tree barks, members of the Bakun Saguday Youth Group, a community cultural group, performed a footwork dance to the rhythmic beat of wooden instruments called *tal-lak* as their offering to the gods and spirits.

And as a way of expressing oneness with the upland folk, Deles and Perce were made to dance to the beat and rhythm of a *solibao* (a native drum) and gongs.

After "reading" the good omen from the bile and livers of the five pigs offered to *Kabunian*, elders said both beneficiaries and benefactors of the inaugurated facility would be blessed in the years ahead.

Politics mars fight for gender equality

By Elizabeth Lolarga

WHEN they say poverty has a woman's face, this situation is a negative consequence of political and socioeconomic policies on globalization, the lack of social services, the neglect for her social well-being, and the combined burden of the home and the workplace.

Republic Act 7192 tries to address these problems by providing that 5 percent of the total budget of government agencies be set aside for what is known as the gender and development (GAD) budget. This budget intends to enable women to benefit equally and participate directly in their programs and projects.

Angeles City in Pampanga was among the first to take the lead through the passage of a GAD ordinance at the local level in 1998. This was through the initiative of then City Councilor Susan Pineda, founder and executive director of the feminist institution Ing Makababaying Aksyon Foundation Inc. (IMA).

Together with the IMA's Madonna Carlos and Amar Torres of the University of the Philippines College of Social Work and Community Development, they wrote the chapter "How Much Really Goes to Women? A Case Study on the GAD Budget in Angeles City" in the book "Gender Budget Trail: The Philippine Experience" (published by Asia Foundation).

The authors observed that the city has not fully weaned itself from its image of a "sin city" with more women entertainers coming in from the Visayas and other provinces in anticipation of the deployment of US military personnel after the Visiting Forces Agreement was approved.

"Sex tourism ads on the Internet aggravate the prostitution and trafficking of women," they noted.

Women's groups have been active in community rehabilitation and base conversion. Women have engaged in politics to present their agenda among which is carrying out the memo from the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the Department of the Budget and Management to use 5 percent of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) for gender-related projects.

The city's GAD ordinance did one better by stating that the GAD fund should be 5 percent of the general fund rather than only the IRA allocation. GAD councils at the barangay and city levels were put up to ensure the promotion of women's welfare, formulate GAD plans and identify women's issues, among other things.

But when Pineda found herself in the minority opposition, the winds started to change. The GAD office fell directly under the office of the new mayor, giving him the last say on how the GAD plans are to be carried out.

He views women's issues as merely revolving around livelihood opportunities, basic health services, day care assistance and improving their overseas employment opportunities.

The Angeles City Women's Coordinating Council, which used to be a member of the GAD secretariat but

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Shooting the rapids in the mighty Chico River

By Jovelyn Reyes
Kalinga

THE 80-KILOMETER Chico River, its water snaking from the highlands of Mt. Province and Kalinga to the Cagayan River, is now home of two American-popularized water sports—whitewater rafting and kayaking.

At least 32 km of the Chico River pass through Kalinga, where whitewater adventure trips are being offered to tourists by the Kalinga-based Chico River Quest Inc. (CRQI). The river connects to 10 more tributaries around the lush mountains of Kalinga.

The river was made famous by folk hero Macliing Dulag, who led the opposition to the construction of the Chico Dam during the regime of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the 1980s.

"Thanks to Macliing Dulag, without him, (we would have not harnessed the eco-tourism potential of the Chico River and) there would be no whitewater rafting and kayaking today," said Natividad Sugguiyao, marketing manager of the CRQI.

Eco-tourism

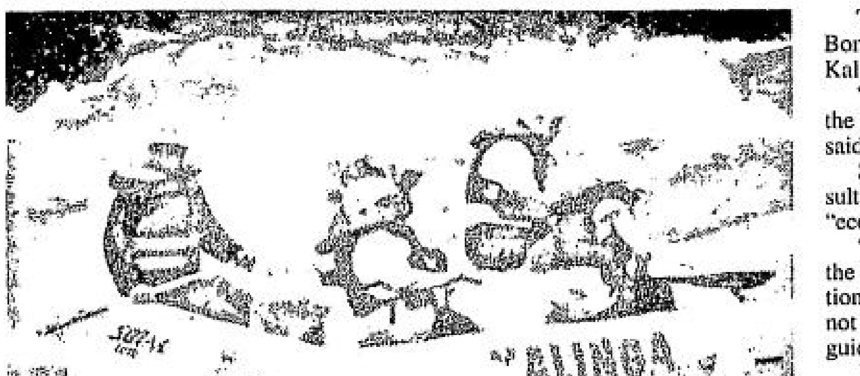
Kalinga Gov. Macario Duguiang said river rafting and kayaking was the province's first tourism program. "We are optimistic that this venture of the province into tourism would succeed," he said.

Sugguiyao said it took them more than three years to convince tribal folk that promoting the Chico River as an eco-tourism destination does not mean exploiting their ancestral domain and their culture.

To the Kalingas, the Chico means not just "the little river" but a sacred place. They said their ancestors had taught them that the river was once the playground of Kabunian, the Igorots' Supreme Being.

"We are firm believers of the ancestral concept on (our bond with the) earth . . . the Chico River is our river of life. We recognize the so-called economic leakage of eco-tourism that is prevalent in indigenous communities. That phenomenon inspired us to come up with the CRQI that is wholly owned and operated by Kalinga locals," Sugguiyao said.

"Before, the Kalingas generalized other people as intruders who were after the treasures of their mountains,"



THE MIGHTY Chico River is now home to whitewater rafting and kayaking.
PHOTO BY EDGAR JULARBAL/DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM-CORDILLERA

she said, referring to the vast gold and other mineral reserves of their mountains.

She said that even the construction of lodging places for tourists took quite sometime.

"The CRQI had worked so hard since 1997 to convince well-to-do families to build hotels and inns for tourists. They started building only two years ago," she said.

With the investment of locals, at least seven hotels and inns were built in Kalinga.

Sugguiyao said pioneering whitewater rafting and kayaking in the country was no easy feat. "But we are optimistic that the province will soon be known as the country's whitewater rafting capital," she said.

The whitewater rafting season starts in September and runs through February when the water level in the Chico River is high. "As water level rises, the rapids are higher and faster," she said.

First river descent

The Chico River was first navigated by American rafter Ned Sickels and Gary Fondren, together with two Kalinga men, in November 1997.

The first river descent started from Bontoc, Mt. Province, down to Tabuk, Kalinga.

"It took them four days to navigate the more than 80-km river," Sugguiyao said.

Sickels is the chief trainor and consultant of the CRQI and considered the "eco-tourism godfather" of the Kalingas.

"They discovered the potential of the Chico River as a tourism destination. Year after year, they come back not to raft but to train local folk as raft guides," Sugguiyao said.

In a recent familiarization tour for members of the media, Ned Sickels, 50, told the INQUIRER that he had given some $100,000 for the equipment and training of raft guides in the province.

In 1999, Sickels said, he invited 11 professional rafters from West Virginia to train the first group of Kalinga rafters.

"It will take two years to train raft guides," he said. "(But) river kayaking is a lot more difficult. It would take at least four years to train one guide."

At present, the CRQI has 15 raft guides and one safety kayak guide. He said the group is equipped with four rafts and two kayaks for tourists.

Record holder

Last September, Tao Berman, the Guinness Book of World Records holder for kayaking in the highest waterfall in the world, visited Kalinga and navigated the Saltan River in Balbalan town.

The river connects to the Chico River in an area called Tumyangan and its confluence produced "Class 3" rapids.

"He did extreme kayaking and was so enthralled not only with the rapid-fire excitement of the river currents but also with the Kalinga people," Sugguiyao recalled.

The more than 35-km Tinglayan-Tabuk stretch of the Chico River has Classes 3 and 4 rapids and 3-5-foot waterfalls.

The Chico River whitewater rafting challenge was formally launched at the Philippine Travel Mart at the SM Megamall on Nov. 24 in connection with the "WOW! Philippines" program of the Department of Tourism.

Resty Dimacuha, project officer of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. (PCVC), said it would be the first whitewater rafting tour program to be included in the travel mart.

The PCVC has accredited Kalinga as the whitewater rafting and kayaking center of the North. The rafting will be included in the "Wild Over Waters" lineup of the WOW! Philippines program, Dimacuha said.

Artist returns to Sagada to play with earth, fire

BY DESIREE CALUZA
Mt. Province

HE left without a trace and returned with his fingerprints on Sagada's soil. And he came back to play with earth and fire.

The earth that makes Sagada, Mt. Province, a haven for artists like Jaime de Guzman is what prompted him to come back after being away for 12 years. De Guzman, as other artists would put it, is one of the most celebrated potters in the country.

"I never really left Sagada in the first place. There are places that you do not really leave. We have been here during the 1970s, but we started doing pottery here in the 1980s when I noticed the clay behind the St. Mary's School," said the 59-year-old native of Candelaria, Quezon.

De Guzman, one of the adopted sons of Sagada, left the tourist town in 1988.

"The economy was really bad then that we had to leave. But now I am back. Pottery is not about money but it is about the intimate rapport with working with your hands with earth and fire," he said.

When he returned to Sagada in March this year, he had no vision of turning pottery into a big industry. He said making a big business out of pottery would mean embarking on a capitalist venture that might eventually lead to the destruction of environment.

"The clay here is very abundant, you can make a livelihood out of pottery. But I still want it to be environmentally sound," said De Guzman.

Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip, one of De Guzman's long-time friends, shares the same vision with the potter.

"We invite craftsmen and artists like Jaime to teach our people to develop a craft of our own. After all, what can a fifth class municipality offer? We want a small-scale industry that has a sustainable profit that goes back to the community. That is our principle," Killip said.

Outsider

De Guzman was the first outsider who ventured into pottery when he first came to Sagada in the 1970s. He decided to stay in Sagada in the early 1980s when he discovered that the clay there was good for pottery.

He built his first kiln at the back of the St. Mary's School with the intention of attracting its students to the art of pottery.

In their five-year stay in Sagada, De Guzman and his wife Ann Polkingorn, also a potter, lived in Barangay Dao-Angan and busied themselves with pottery.

"My wife would complain before because I would give away jars. But I would give away jars to old men to use them as *tapuey* (rice wine) jars. I was also hoping that the jars could be used as ritual vessels," De Guzman said.

De Guzman took up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. When he went to Mexico in the 1970s, his passion for painting metamorphosed into pottery when he met Ann, an American potter who eventually became his wife.

"When I met Ann, I was attracted to her and her art. And I told myself 'I'm going to take you home when I go back to the Philippines. I learned a lot about pottery from Ann," he said.

With their seven children, the De Guzmans migrated to Sagada in 1983 and settled in a place that served as their working area.

During their stay in the town, De Guzman never stopped molding pots, cups, bowls and other wares. But molding jars became his favorite.

"I'm quite interested in molding jars because of its ritual significance. Cordillera has a long appreciation for jars. In our place, we have what we call *tawid*, wherein you pass on the cultural tradition to the next generation," he said.

Before De Guzman left Sagada 12 years ago, he formed an association of potters to teach residents in making pots by using Sagada clay. But when he left, nothing had been heard about Sagada potters until other outsiders came to revive the art of pottery in the town.De Guzman's effort in developing the Sagada clay paid off. After him, other potters came to Sagada to revive the industry.

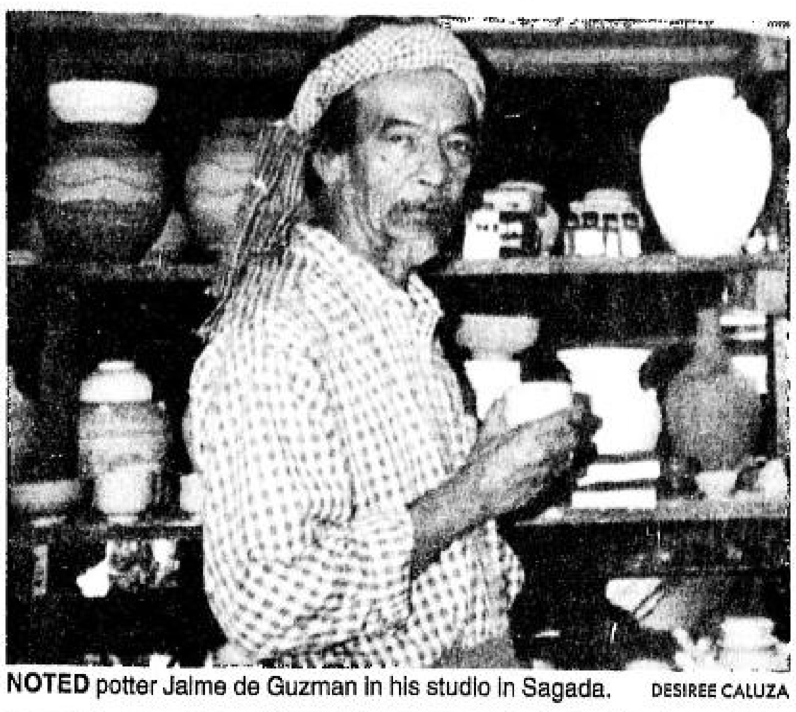
Noted potters, like David Fowler, an Englishman, and his apprentice Michael Say-awen, have been active in promoting pottery in Sagada.

Another artist making his mark in pottery is Archie Stapleton, son of an American priest based in Mt. Province. Stapleton has returned to Sagada to teach pottery to residents.

Stapleton left for Tennessee when he was 10 years old and returned to Sagada in January this year. He has joined De Guzman in conducting workshops for residents.

"The feeling is still refreshing when you visit a house and you see your works there, then you would tell yourself, 'Oh, this is what I made 15 years ago,'" De Guzman said.

And to prove that he is still the potter that he was two decades ago, De Guzman, together with Stapleton and members of the Cagayan de Oro Pottery and Sagada Pottery Training Center, opened their exhibit of latest works on Nov. 24 at the Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary in Baguio City. The exhibit runs until Dec. 20.



NOTED potter Jaime de Guzman in his studio in Sagada. DESIREE CALUZA

From mamas' group to coop

AN ORGANIZATION of village women in Sual, Pangasinan, who have proved their capability in improving their economic situation is one of this year's recipients of the Rafael M. Salas Population and Development Award.

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

The Pangascasan Women's Multi-Cooperative received a gold medallion during the National Population Congress last week. It shared honors with the Associates for Integral Development Foundation of Butuan City.

The cooperative, based in a farming village in Sual, started as a "mothers' association" and was one of the first batches of women's groups organized in Pangasinan in 1990 under the United Nations Fund for Population Activities-Food and Agriculture Organization project for women. The project is being implemented by the provincial government of Pangasinan.

The 34 original members underwent a series of training and were granted an P80,000 loan in 1991 which they used for rice trading. After paying the loan, they were granted successive loans that they used for trading activities and *bagoong* (fish paste) making.

Because of the group's good credit standing, it was developed into a cooperative and membership expanded to 94. The cooperative, which has 211 members has more than P1 million in seed money. Its members were also awarded a contract for janitorial services at the Sual power plant.

Its primary objective is to provide livelihood opportunities for women in the community. It then expanded its vision to serve not only the women, but also the men, children and the entire community.

Yolanda Fuertes

Politics . . .

(From page A16)

was booted out to be replaced by the Angeles City Women's Education and Development, criticized the use of the GAD budget for programs that should have been charged to regular government funds.

Examples are "palliative measures" like medical missions, maternity and child care, subsidies for PhilHealth and school supplies for poor children. These prove that "gender perspectives" have not guided these programs.

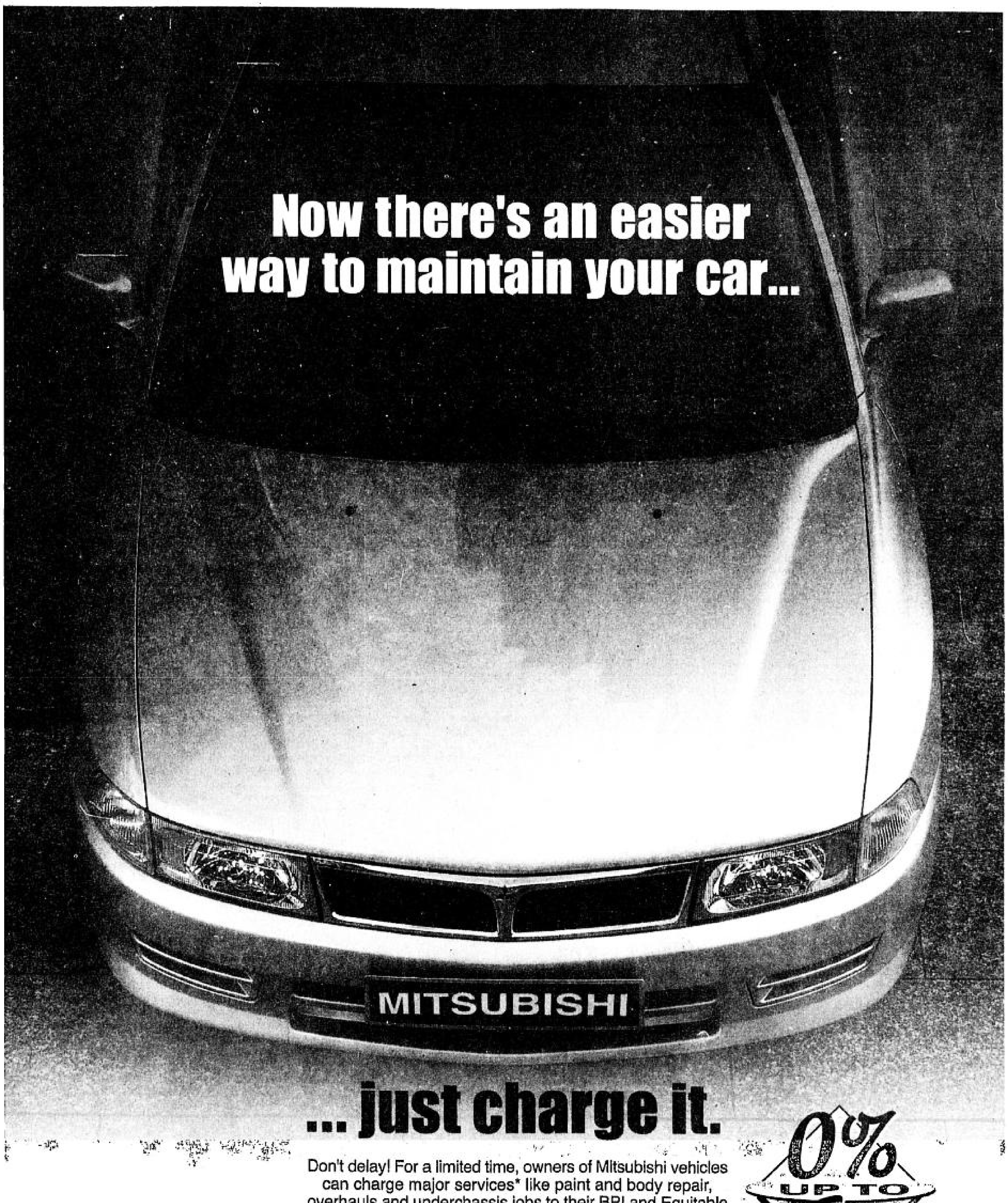
The authors wrote that these projects "do not question the gender relationships spawning the problems they seek to address."

For example, instead of just providing scholarships, "a more proactive measure would have been to retrain teachers on gender constructions in Philippine society so that they could socialize their students towards gender equality."

They also suggested "alternative employment to prostitution," adding that "helping women gain access to productive work can also be more gender-responsive, not only in terms of providing jobs but also in influencing companies and offices to institute nondiscriminatory policies."

In the case of day care services, the providers can be trained to encourage gender equality in the classroom and avoid gender stereotypes in dealing with children.

But what needs to be immediately done is to remove partisan politics in gender mainstreaming, to make local governments more familiar with GAD and to invite civil society in drawing up and implementing GAD plans, they said.



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Serge O: Gloria knew of ransom

(From page A1)

Malinowksy (then US chargé d'Affaires) and (US) Senator Richard Lugar. I told them that P17 million had been delivered to free Romero. They are witnesses to what I knew at that time."

"The President knows. *Baka mapahiya siya*," Osmeña said.

Preposterous

Upon learning of Osmeña's newest claim, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao angrily reacted: "That's preposterous."

"The President has not been involved, nor has this administration been involved in any ransom payment, if they were actually made," Tiglao said.

"It's getting to be a habit of some of (the President's) critics," he said of the various accusations of wrongdoing against Ms Macapagal.

Asked about Osmeña's possible motive in making the accusation, Tiglao said: "I cannot fathom his motives. You have to ask him that. If he really thinks there is basis for his accusations or if he has some agenda."

But Osmeña said he has no agenda against the Palace. "I'm helping the Palace in all the important bills like the Anti-Money Laundering bill. But on things that are not proper, I'm taking them to town."

Osmeña said yesterday that he facilitated the delivery of the ransom by making some telephone calls, but he did not say to whom he made those calls.

He said the ransom came in three tranches—P10 million for the Abu Sayyaf, P5 million for the military and P2 million for the local government involved in the negotiation.

He said Reyes, Villanueva and Dominguez were present when the ransom was paid.

"Noong nagkabayaran, nandoon si Diomedio, Reyes at Dominguez. On the day itself, they were micromanaging the whole thing," Osmeña said.

He demanded the resignation of Reyes and Villanueva.

But Reyes said Osmeña must first prove his charges "and if he cannot do that in six months, then he should be the one to resign."

He added that the senator "should be the one to explain why it took him so long to disclose his alleged participation in the supposed ransom payoff."

Osmeña told the INQUIRER that disclosure at that time would have jeopardized military operations against the Abu Sayyaf who were then holding 14 hostages.

"I decided to give their group (the military) six months to solve the Abu Sayyaf problem," Osmeña told the INQUIRER last night. "It's been six months exactly."

Romero reportedly escaped with two others last June 2.

Reyes said Osmeña was making the allegations against the military "in a desperate attempt to divert attention from his alleged participation in the ransom negotiation." He noted that the senator was making "the same old charge that has been investigated over and over again."

Villanueva, in a radio interview, admitted that it was "possible" ransom was paid for some Dos Palmas hostages but he stressed he did not have personal knowledge about it.

"That's not an impossible thing," he said of the supposed ransom payments. "Most of us had that suspicion but I had no personal knowledge of them."

But he was adamant that the military did not receive any part of the ransom: "Nobody among us (in the military), those that I know, partook of that."

Tiglao said the charge was "a big insult to the military" especially because the latter suffered many casualties in its operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Operating from Malacañang

Osmeña maintained that the payment of ransom had the consent of the President.

"That is my belief because the operatives I was talking to were operating from Malacañang. I will not say who they are, but they are from Malacañang," he said.

He said the Malacañang intermediaries called him up several times for help in the delivery of the money. He said he helped because "the money came from Reghis anyway."

"I don't know Reghis personally but the lives of three people were involved," he said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf released Romero with his companion, Ma. Rizza Santos. Eight-year-old RJ Recio was released as a "bonus," the senator had earlier said. Osmeña made the disclosure on the ransom payment last Saturday in Bacolod City to INQUIRER correspondent Carla Gomez.

Romero had claimed that he, Santos and Recio escaped from their captors at the height of military operations in Lamitan, Basilan, last June 2.

The senator, who came under fire from other legislators because he violated the government's no-ransom policy, said he decided to come out and reveal what he knew because he could no longer stomach the administration's lies on the matter.

No law violated

He said he did not violate the law. He insisted that the no-ransom policy was just a policy of the present administration and was not a law.

Osmeña pointed out the case of the mostly foreign hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf from the Malaysian resort in Sipadan last year where then presidential aide Roberto Aventajado supposedly helped in the ransom payment.

The senator said there was nothing wrong if people wanted to pay ransom because they do not have confidence in the ability of the military and the police to ensure a safe rescue.

"That's a natural inclination," Osmeña said. "My feeling was that if I did not help, and they died next week, then I would not be able to sleep for the rest of my life."

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara found nothing wrong in Osmeña's actions. He said Osmeña merely helped in the delivery of the ransom and did not take part in the negotiation for the payment of ransom.

"As far as he was concerned, it's a choice between helping in delivering the money and jeopardizing the lives of three people," Angara said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Danding: I was only a witness to signing of coco levy deal

(From page A1)

the coconut levy fund. For this reason, I agreed to witness the signing," he said.

The businessman also belied allegations that he or persons associated with him had negotiated secretly with other groups to work out a settlement.

"Neither did I in any way try to influence any of the participants in the meeting," he said.

The proposed deal calls for the setting up of a perpetual trust fund using P50 billion in Coconut Industry Investment Fund invested in 27 to 31 percent of San Miguel shares. Cojuangco's 20-percent stake in San Miguel, which was also acquired using coco levy funds, is not covered by the deal.

Under the agreement, coconut farmers will get 40 percent of the interest earnings of the perpetual fund, the government 25 percent and the Philippine Federation of Coconut Producers (Cocofed) 20 percent. Fifteen percent goes back to the trust fund.

He said that as an active member of the coconut industry he fully supported all efforts being taken to help coconut farmers.

"The Philippine coconut industry is being tossed on the waves of globalization and competition. More efficient producers from other countries are gaining a larger share of the market for coconut products.

"In the meantime, alternative products such as palm, soy and corn oil are steadily eroding the market for coconut oil. All of these have depressed the demand for coconut products and intensified the volatility of prices to the detriment of everyone in the industry, most especially the farmers and farm workers," Cojuangco said.

He said the coconut industry needed help from everybody.

"The coconut industry is first and foremost a Filipino industry. It deserves the support of the Filipino people. Let us put all these political intrigues aside for they do no good not only to the industry, but most especially to our farmers and farm workers," Cojuangco aid.

But an official of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said Cojuangco would have benefited from the deal.

Gen. Virgilio M. David yesterday told the INQUIRER that the 27-percent stake of the CIIF in San Miguel was under the names of the cronies and dummies of Cojuangco.

David, member of the PCA board of directors, said that under the proposed deal the interest earnings of the perpetual trust fund would actually go to Cojuangco.

"The coconut farmers and the government save for Efren Villaseñor and Norberto Gonzales Jr. will lose everything," David said.

Villaseñor, also a PCA director, signed the agreement on behalf of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan.

Gonzales, a presidential adviser on special concerns, encouraged several farmers' groups to sign the deal.

David denied Gonzales' accusation that he opposed the deal because he would not get a commission.

"This is not only completely wrong but a blatant lie. I do not settle with thieves, much more ask for a commission," David said.

"Mr. Gonzales must be unknowingly talking to himself—expecting a commission for initiating a compromise with thieves," David added.

In the House of Representatives, Cojuangco's allies said they would most likely block the passage of a bill seeking to classify the P130 billion in coconut levy funds as public.

"I suppose the NPC (the Nationalist People's Coalition) will oppose that bill. Yes, I guess so," Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. (Tarlac, NPC) said.

NPC has 56 members in the House.

Teodoro said NPC members had yet to make a party stand on the bill but said they would soon meet to make one.

Teodoro, a nephew of Cojuangco, also said that the government would deprive coconut farmer beneficiaries of the coco levy funds if it insisted on treating the funds as public funds.

Teodoro also expressed regret that the PCGG had rejected a compromise agreement brokered by Ang, the President's publicist.

But Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, one of the authors of the bill seeking to declare the coco levy funds as public, hailed the President for rejecting the compromise settlement forged among Cojuangco, Lobregat and a coconut farmers group represented by Villaseñor.

"I am happy that she has made her position clear now. It will improve her image and her chances in 2004," Failon said.

Nine House members, led by party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and Failon filed on Monday House Bill No. 4000 which seeks to affirm the coco funds as public and mandate its exclusive use for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

Authors of the bill have expressed fears that the measure might find rough sailing in the House, where the NPC commands power as a sizeable member of the pro-administration coalition.

NPC members are ranking House officers, including Deputy Majority Floor Leader Francis Escudero who is the NPC spokesperson. Other NPC members are committee chairs.

"I'm not for that bill naturally," said Teodoro, who stressed he was not hiding his relation with Cojuangco.

A day after being told to "desist from interfering," Gonzales hit back at Yorac for rejecting the latest coco levy compromise deal.

He accused Yorac of being biased against farmers' groups who entered into a deal with big producers headed by Cojuangco.

"I think Haydee Yorac should remove her bias against some farmers groups if she wants to serve the government properly," Gonzales told the INQUIRER in an interview.

He took offense at Yorac's accusation against Villaseñor, head of the coco farmers group PKSMN that signed the Oct. 28 agreement with Cojuangco and Cocofed to monetize 27 percent of San Miguel Corp. shares worth P50 billion.

The shares were bought using taxes levied on coconut farmers during the Marcos regime from 1972 to 1983.

"She accused Efren Villaseñor of being on the pay of Danding. That's extremely unfair. She's a good lawyer. She should investigate first before she makes such statements," Gonzales said.

He agreed with the President's pronouncement that all proposed deals should go through the PCGG.

"But discussions between farmers and the parties involved should not be prevented. It should be encouraged," he said. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

'Interim formula' sought to free coco funds

(From page A1)

only to get an automatic share of the funds but also to administer them through farmers' groups.

Coco bill

Carranza said Ms Macapagal also promised during the meeting in Malacañang that she would approve a bill filed in Congress recognizing the public character of the coco levy funds.

Nine pro-administration members of the House of Representatives filed on Monday a bill, which seeks to declare the coconut levy monies as public funds.

HB 4000, the proposed "Coco Levy Funds and Assets Are Public Funds Act of 2001," also calls for the use of the coco levy funds exclusively for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

The legislators also filed House Bill No. 4001, the "Coconut Industry Development Act of 2001," seeking to create a Presidential Coconut Industry Development Council that will manage the funds for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

Carranza said the third point decided in Malacañang was that "all proposals—whether for a compromise agreement or for an interim formula—go to the PCGG."

He said the PCGG rejected Ang's proposal as contained in a draft executive order, which the PCGG got through other sources, because it did not comply with the conditions set by the PCGG for the interim formula.

Nevertheless, anybody could "come to us and present a proposal," the PCGG official said.

"We will then decide whether this is consistent with the government's position," Carranza said.

He said the President also wanted the PCGG to continue litigating (the coco levy cases)."

The PCGG has a pending motion to submit additional evidence in the coco levy case to the Sandiganbayan.

Supreme Court resolution

Carranza pointed out that the Supreme Court might even come out with a resolution soon on the case filed by coconut farmers last year seeking to declare as unconstitutional Executive Order No. 313 issued then by President Joseph Estrada, and three presidential decrees of the late President Ferdinand Marcos that classified the coco levy as private funds.

Ironically, the case was filed by the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Magniniyog at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN) headed by Efren Villaseñor who had signed a statement of solidarity with Cojuangco and Lobregat on the coco levy compromise settlement.

Carranza said that although the PCGG as government representative was named respondent in the case, it did not oppose the coconut farmers' petition, and even supported it so that the high court would declare the funds public.

"This case is important because the Supreme Court can actually break the impasse in the Sandiganbayan in the coco levy cases," Carranza said.

He explained that Cojuangco and Lobregat's moves to push for the compromise settlement were designed to "avoid a decisive ruling by the Supreme Court."

Carranza said that the PCGG might even ask the Supreme Court to resolve the case "the soonest possible time."

Should the high court issue a ruling declaring unconstitutional the Marcos decrees and Estrada's EO 313 that classified the coco levy as private funds, all talk about a compromise settlement would end.

The government would not entertain negotiations on the compromise settlement, and would just distribute the coco levy funds directly to coconut farmers.

But Cojuangco and Lobregat, the real defendants in the case, are asking the tribunal to declare as unconstitutional the presidential decrees that had classified the coco levy as public funds.

Farmers groups yesterday said expressed concern that Malacañang and the PCGG were still keeping the doors open for settlement agreements on the coco levy funds, even after PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac had said that the latest compromise deal was illegal and immoral.

Alarming

In a rally by some 200 coconut farmers from Southern Tagalog and Bicol outside Malacañang, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said Yorac's statement that the PCGG was not against the expeditious release of the coco levy funds was alarming.

Yorac had said "for as long the settlement is just, and legal and not contrary to morals and public policy, the PCGG will support it and ask the courts to approve it."

Rafael Mariano, KMP chair, believed that Yorac's meeting with the President had influenced the PCGG to maintain an open-door policy on future compromise agreements, even with Cojuangco and Lobregat.

Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform (COIR), said Ms Macapagal herself should publicly state her position on the coco levy issue to erase suspicions that backdoor deal was still being discussed with Cojuangco.

"Until she herself takes a position on the issue we would know (if the deal is dead)," Faustino said.

Another peasant organization, the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama) welcomed the outcome of the meeting between the PCGG and Malacañang.

"It's about time the President made clear her position on the coco levy," Fabe said.

Fabe observed that Ms Macapagal made a strong government position by agreeing to the two conditions set by the PCGG.

Fabe believed that the government's declaration of a unified position on the coco levy deal would calm down fears among peasant organizations opposed to any compromise agreement on the disposal of the coco levy funds.

But Fabe said the President should fire Villaseñor, a member of the board of directors of the Philippine Coconut Authority, for taking part in the negotiations for the compromise agreement between the Cojuangco camp and the some farmers groups.

In the Senate, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel urged Malacañang to form a multi-sectoral committee to craft a compromise agreement to unfreeze the sequestered coconut levy funds.

Invite all parties

Pimentel said there was a need to put an end to the controversy by inviting all parties involved to come to terms so that the funds could be immediately released to rehabilitate the coconut industry.

He said the multi-sectoral committee should be composed of all stakeholders from the government and groups of farmers, planters, millers, traders, as well as other sectors in the coconut industry.

This, Pimentel said, would ensure transparency in the process of formulating a compromise settlement.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there was nothing illegal or immoral in a compromise deal.

"The bottomline is that that agreement is made possible for small farmers to benefit from this fund sitting idly for the past 15 years." Angara said.

He said that despite the strong protests from politicians, the farmers were being made to sacrifice by not touching the funds.

How levy was collected

From 1971 to 1982, various levies were collected from the production of copra.

The first levy started in 1971 when Republic Act No. 6260, the Coconut Investment Fund Law, was enacted.

The levy at that time was pegged at 55 centavos for every 100 kilos of copra sold.

The amount was to be collected for 10 years or until P100 million was collected.

Coconut receipts were supposed to be issued to farmers but the manner in which the receipts were issued provided a fertile ground for corruption.

A Coconut Industry Stabilization Fund (CISF) was established in 1973 through PD 276, which imposed a levy of P15 for every 100 kilos of copra depending on export price.

In October 1981, PD 1851 was issued to impose P50 assessment fund per 100 kilos of copra and placed under the CISF.

Though intended for the coconut farmers, the bigger portion of the funds was used to set up the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and Unicom, which reportedly benefited the cronies of Marcos.

An estimated P4.75 billion administered by the UCPB and P2.57 billion of the CISF were used to put up or buy out various companies. Investments were made even in non-coco related firms like the San Miguel.

The ownership of the funds has since been entangled in legal disputes.

PD 276 declared it as public funds set up as a trust fund for the industry.

But Marcos issued Executive Order No. 490 and PD 1468 changing the funds into private funds. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

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Alvarez makes pitch for Naia 3

THERE will be huge opportunities for Filipino businesses and foreign investors when the new $550-million third terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport opens late next year as it will offer one of the lowest rental rates in the Asia Pacific region, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said.

Alvarez said concessionaires of the Naia Terminal 3 would be charged as low as $8 per square meter of commercial space once the new facility is completed and ready for business at the end of 2002.

"These are among the cheapest rates you can find in the region. There is virtually no comparison with our commercial rates," Alvarez said.

Records at the transportation department show that commercial establishments in Malaysia's Penang airport charge as high as $150 per square meter while concessionaires at Singapore's Changi airport are charged $39 per square meter.

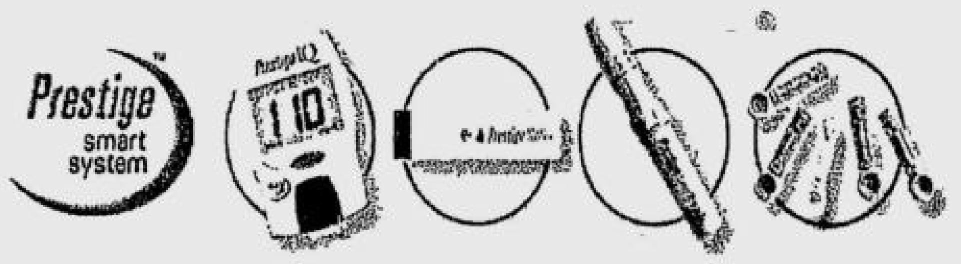
Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport charges $50 to $500 per square meter, depending on the location of a particular business inside the terminal.

Concessionaires in Germany's Frankfurt airport, considered one of the best in the world, are assessed a relatively low $28 per square meter.

"This still does not compare to Terminal 3 because its highest cost per square meter would be $28," Alvarez said.

Legislators, meanwhile, have castigated the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) for allowing PAL the continued use of the Naia 2 Terminal without a contract, a statement from the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the contractors for Terminal 3, said yesterday.

At a recent hearing of the House committee on good government, legislators told off MIAA general manager Edgardo C. Manda for continuing to tolerate PAL's exclusive use of the terminal, which was allowed in the previous Estrada administration apparently without a contract.



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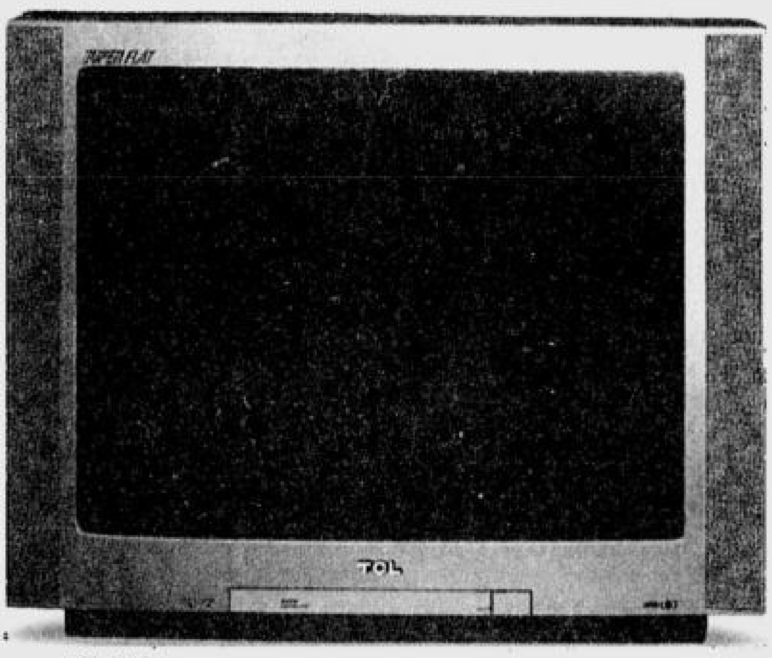

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There is no such thing as a mono TCL TV. And there never will be. Because at TCL, we firmly believe that a good picture is nothing without good sound. Ever since, all our TVs have been equipped with stereo speakers developed through cutting-edge German technology, no less. But the sad truth is, not all TV makers are like us. These days, our competitors will do just about anything to sell you their outdated pieces of junk. Like give their TVs "monitor-like" cabinets with twin speakers to make you think its stereo. (Not surprisingly, they still sound like twin tin cans.) They've even dropped their prices, together with a feature or two,— all in the name of profit. Why settle for an obsolete mono TV when you can get a TCL AV stereo TV that's **VCD and DVD-ready** for the same price? In case you didn't know, our 29-inch TV costs just as much as the competition's 21-inch set. Check out TCL at your favorite appliance store and get ready to be stirred. In a totally different way.

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Wedding bells ring for Borg

STOCKHOLM— Five-time Wimbledon champ Bjorn Borg is keen to have children now that he is set to marry his new love Patricia Ostfeldt, 31, in the Swedish archipelago on June 8, the Swedish tennis legend told the daily Expressen on Monday. "Now we want to have kids. I'd make a great stay-at-home dad. I am unemployed after all," the 45-year-old Borg told the paper. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

St. Francis, DLS part ways

ONLY one team will be left on top of Group A as defending champion St. Francis of Assisi College collides with co-leader De La Salle-Dasmariñas in the seniors match of the NCRAA basketball tournament tomorrow at the Philippine Maritime Institue Gym. SFAC and DLSU-Dasmariñas hold perfect 3-0 slates prior to their 2 p.m. tiff.

Manila, Cebu share Batang Pinoy lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BACOLOD CITY—Manila scoured four golds from the pool, three of them in record fashion, to share the leadership with Cebu Province at six golds apiece yesterday in the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy at the Panaad Sports Complex here.

Cebu Province managed to parry Manila's threat when its boys badminton team snatched the gold over Negros Occidental, preserving the headstart it built in the first few days of the meet.

Host Bacolod City and Rizal are within striking distance with four gold medals each after victories in swimming, also yesterday.

Dina Trabucou of Davao del Norte sparkled in throwing events, winning the girls shot put gold to add up to her baseball throw gold last Sunday.

But as the action unfolded so were the controversies as reports of age-cheating, walkout and theft spread in and out of the playing areas.

A shuttlecock artist from Rizal Province pulled out of competition when the Manila delegation questioned his age, while another badminton player from Cebu City is still under investigation.

Davao province also protested a boxer from Cagayan de Oro but the Batang Pinoy appeals committee junked the complaint, while table tennis delegation from Ilocos Norte reportedly lost their valuables at the Negros Occidental multi purpose arena.

There were actually seven record-breaking feats at the start of the swimming competitions dominated by Manila tankers Heidi Gem Ong (50m freestyle for girls 11-12 years), Gian Daniel Berino (50m free for boys six-years and under) and Ma. Anna Arabajo (200m individual medley for girls 11-12). Kimberly Uy won Manila's fourth gold after ruling the 50m freestyle for girls (6 years and under).

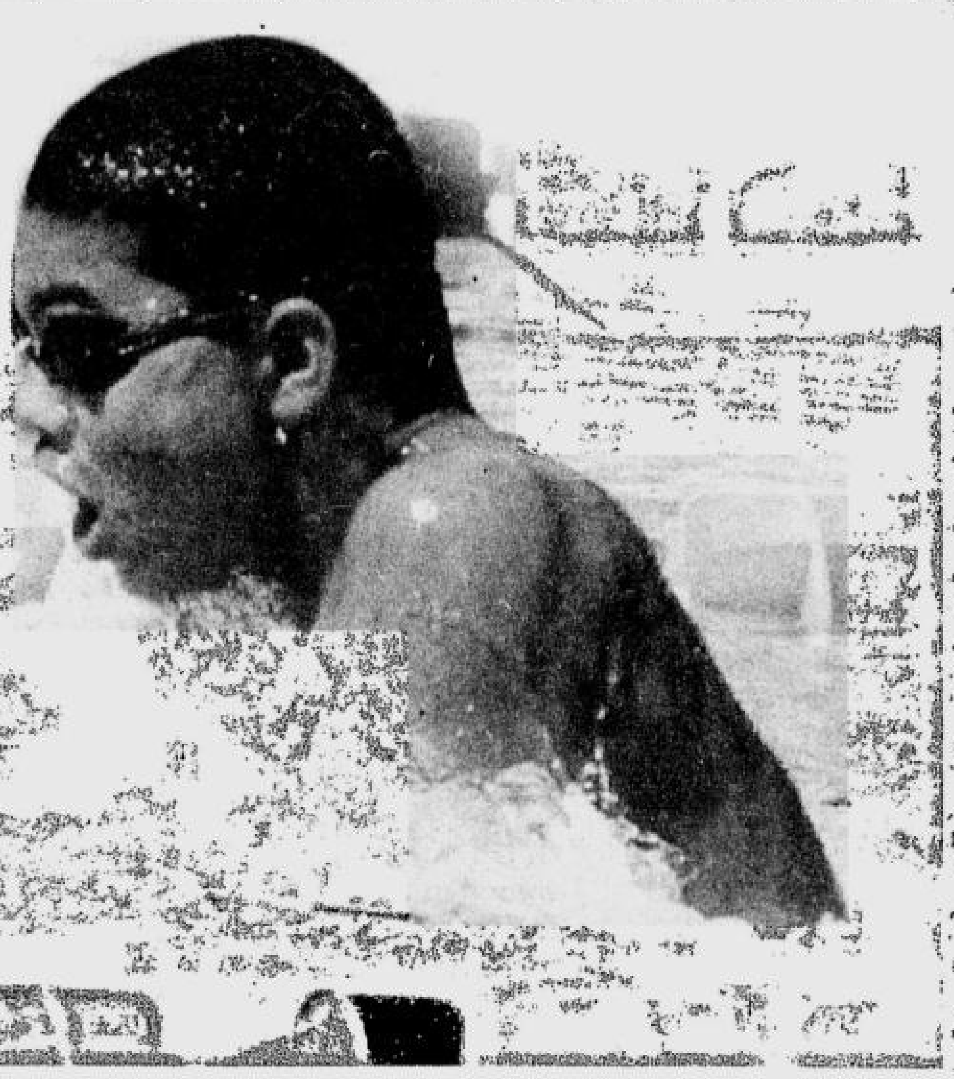
Also sinking pool records were Miguel Villanueva of Bacolod City (50m free for boys 9-10), Gerard Bordado of Naga City (100m breaststroke for boys 11-12), Mariel Infantado of Oriental Mindoro (50m free for girls 9-10) and 8-year-old Erika Visitacion of Las Piñas City (50m free for girls 7-8).

Pangasinan and Bukidnon produced the newest sprints king and queen when Jose Joel Carera and Rory del Camong topped the century dash for boys and girls, respectively.

Nueva Ecija kicked its way up to the standings with two golds after karatekas Lean Santos and Diana Cacdac ruled the boys kumite for 11 years old and girls kumite for 12 years old. Cagayan de Oro also made its first hit through Mark Guerrero in boys kumite for 12 years.

Almost overshadowed by the walkout in badminton in Taytung High School were the gold medals by Cebu Province and Capiz, which topped the boys and girls team events, respectively.

Also winning golds in the pool were Jan Michael Chiu of Mandaluyong City (50m free for boys 11-12), Jose Joaquin Gonzales of Davao City (50m free for boys 7-8), Chrizel Lagunday of Iloilo City (100m breast for girls 11-12) and Neihu Sadeq of Rizal Province (100m breast for boys 9-10).



GERARD Bordado of Naga City churns his way to a record-breaking feat in the boys' (11-12 years) 100-meter breaststroke competitions. ROMY HOMILLADA

San Mig, SLR start best-of-7

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY:
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:05 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Shell (3rd place)
7:10 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Sta. Lucia (Game 1)

BLACK

STA. Lucia Realty has a score to settle with San Miguel Beer when their best-of-seven PBA Governors Cup title series blasts off tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors bowed against the Beermen during last year's Commissioner's Cup Final in a stinging 4-1 debacle that stalled what could have been Sta. Lucia's first title since joining the league in 1992.

Save for the 6-foot-7 imports and some minor replacements, the Realtors and the defending champion Beermen have the same set of pieces if it were compared to a game of chess.

"But we're more mature now. Some of the guys who played a lot of minutes during that series are veterans now," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, the brains behind the Realtors' second Finals' appearance in over nine years.

Paolo Mendoza, Chris Tan and Gerard Francisco were just rookies back then and were devoured by the more experienced San Miguel backcourt starring Olsen Racela, Danny Seigle and Boybits Victoria.

But while the Realtors are tucking years of experience under their belts, the Beermen are shaping their solid system to near perfection.

With Seigle activated from the injury list and Lamont Strothers peaking at the right time, the Beermen swept the Shell Turbo Chargers in their best-of-five semifinals encounter.

Meanwhile, the impending transfer of Pop Cola's franchise from the RFM Group of Companies to San Miguel Corp. was deferred by the PBA Board of Governors during its meeting held at the Edsa Plaza Hotel Monday night.

The PBA Board is set to render its decision on Dec. 17.

Shark subdues ICTSI Archers

By Dennis U. Eroa

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink outgunned International Container Terminal Services Incs-Archers, 64-58, forcing a three-way logjam for first place as first round hostilities ended in the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Chester Tolomia shot his way to 28 points, while Michael Robinson handcuffed Mike Cortez as the Energy Drink Kings registered their fifth win in seven games, same records of their victims and Blu Detergent Kings.

Exploding with 12 points, Tolomia powered Shark to a 39-22 halftime bulge but the Energy Drink Kings needed to survive a furious fourth-quarter assault by the Archers.

In the first game, Jojo Manalo muffed a game-tying triple as Welcoat Paints lost to resurgent Ateneo-Pioneer, 72-67. The Paintmasters absorbed their fourth straight loss after a 3-0 start.

Scores

SHARK 64—Tolomia 28, Ortega 10, Castro 8, Junio 6, Malabanan 4, Cole 2, Basilides 2, Robinson 2, Sotto 2, Rodriguez 0, Ybanez 0.

ICTSI-ARCHERS 58—Yap 15, Uy 12, Cortez 10, Magsumbol 9, Franco 4, Omolon 4, Castro 3, Cuan 1, Wilson 0, Manalo 0, Sta. Maria 0, Ramos 0, Daep 0.

Quarters: 16-6, 39-22, 47-39, 64-58.

Batangas, Negros seek conference titles

GAMES TODAY
La Salle Lipa Sentrum
3 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Andok's S. Juan
Cebu City Coliseum
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Cebuana Lhuillier

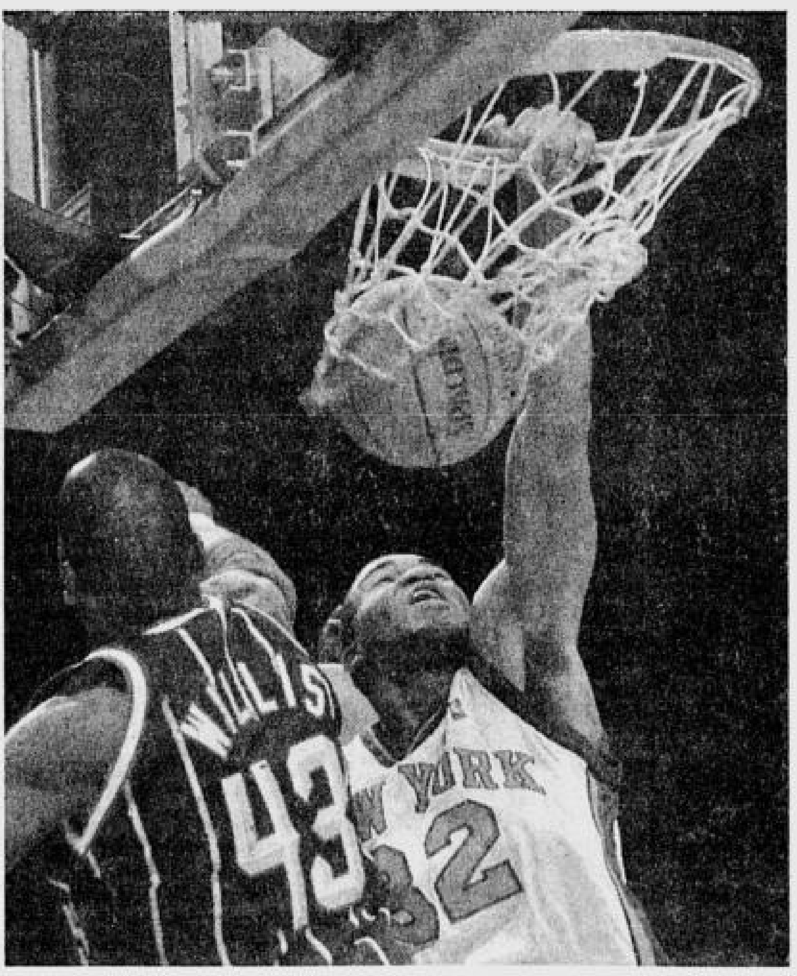
THE LBC Batangas Blades and the Negros Slashers shoot for the clincher against their respective conference finals rivals in the resumption of the MBA Second Phase playoffs today.

The Blades tackle the Andok's San Juan Knights at 3 p.m. at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum in the Northern Conference, while the Negros Slashers battle the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems at 5:30 p.m. at the Cebu City Coliseum in the Southern Conference.

Both the Blades and the Slashers hold a 2-1 edge over their opponents and could cut short the best-of-five series with victories today. The task should not be easy for both teams, however.

The Blades suffered an 80-75 defeat to the Knights last Sunday, while the Slashers have to rally from 16 points down to subdue the Gems in Cebu City.

With the Blades returning to the comfort of their home, they are slight picks over the Knights, who remain dangerous with their intact roster. *Roy Luarca*



SLAM DUNK AP

New York's Othello Harrington (32) slam dunks against Houston's Kevin Willis in the third quarter of their NBA game Monday at the Madison Square Garden in New York. The Knicks won, 89-86. Other results: Orlando 113, Memphis 71 and Phoenix 110, Golden State 93.

STA. LUCIA TOUR

Eagle Ridge eyes repeat

UNLESS the lower-ranked teams come up with a spectacular comeback, Eagle Ridge is poised to keep the coveted Sta. Lucia Tour in its sprawling complex when it hosts the final leg of the course-hopping series on Dec. 7-8.

With an imposing 101-point lead, it will take a major collapse for Eagle Ridge to relinquish the crown it won during the inaugurals last year behind a strong performance by its lower division teams.

Eagle Ridge's lower group bets played true to form this season although the other teams like Orchard, Royale Tagaytay and Alta Vista have shown the resurgence that should pave the way for a fight-to-the-finish battle.

Orchard, unbeaten in the first three legs, is virtually assured of Division I honors but the Dasmariñas, Cavite golfers need to improve on its showing in the lower groups to be able to contend for the overall plum.

The campaigners get to test the conditions of Eagle's Faldo and Aoki courses tomorrow.

Winnie Gob, however, cautions that there is always the wind factor to consider which will add to challenge of the undulating greens and fairways of Faldo and the many hazards of Aoki.

"Consistency remains the key word," said Gob, who co-chairs the executive committee with Vicente Santos.

Real estate giant Sta. Lucia is staging the series to foster relations among clubs operating under its banner. Co-sponsors of the event are Golforce Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Isuzu, Canscor Construction and Development Inc., Neltex and Anako. Official hotels are Hyatt, Cebu Plaza and Marco Polo-Davao. Philippine Airlines is the official carrier.

Table tennis meet unfolds

SOME of the country's finest netters pit skills and talent in the Rustan's National Table Tennis Championships which fires off today with the staging of its elimination round at the Rizal Coliseum.

Newly elected Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) president Victor Valbuena leads the list of guests gracing the opening ceremonies of the six-day meet jointly put up by Rustan's, now celebrating its 50th year of service, and LG Collins Electronics.

"The tournament is Tatap's way of promoting and increasing the popularity of table tennis in the country," said Valvuena. "At the same time, this will enable us to scour talents still undertap especially within the grassroots level."

The Tatap chief likewise lauded the partnership formed by LG Collins Electronics and Rustans to put up the tournament that offers cash prizes and trophies to the winners.

Around 500 players are disputing the nine events on tap, with the eliminations to be held starting today until Saturday.

The players are divided into men's team, women's team, men's open singles, women's open singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, junior boy's singles (17-and-under) and junior girl's singles (17-and-under)—with the elimination to be held starting today until Saturday.

Cebuanos dominate age group triathlon

FAVORITES Abet Biagan and Amale Mendezona of Cebu emerged as the year's best age-group biathletes at the close of the four-leg OHM National Age Group Triathlon series in Danao City recently Friday.

Mendezona, 27, did it with flourish, dominating the final stop even as Cavite's Astrud Valdez, the pacesetter after three legs, could only settle for third place.

On the other hand, Biagan, 26, the top-ranked bet going into the ultimate leg of the series sponsored by Speedo, Viva! Mineral Water, Rambo, PSC and POC, could only finish fourth, just a notch below Pasay City's Sean Lim, 20, who needed a win to figure in tie with Biagan.

Their feats earned Mendezona (1:17:25) and Biagan (1:01:19) berths in the Team Philippines for the 2002 Asian Triathlon Championships in China.

Dumaguete-based Takei Hiroshi, 28, outkicked Cebuano Cris Aldeguer, Lim and Biagan to claim the leg title with a time of 59:23.

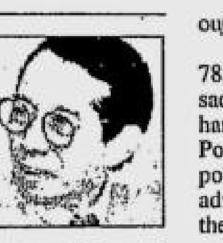
Aldeguer, 26, wound up second in 1:00:24.

Danao City Mayor Ramonito Durano III, Councilor Boying Rodriguez (Danao City Council's youth and sports committee chair) and TRAP president Tom Carrasco awarded the prizes to the winners.

Sports is a way of life

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



(PRAYERS FOR BROD BAYANI. Let us offer a prayer for my brother Eduardo "Bayani" Iñigo, who died in a car accident last Monday afternoon in Montalban, Rizal, at the age of 58. A popular community and political leader, Bayani served as barangay councilman in Marilao, Bulacan, co-organized the annual Milo BEST program for boys and girls in the province and coordinated with town officials in staging Go for Gold amateur boxing tournament under the aegis of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.) He is survived by wife Nimfa, children Rosemarie and Michael, Bimbo and Aireen, Bobet and Liza, Ella and Cin and Joey and Connie, brothers Jose Jr., and Pancho Manald and only sister Chuchie Hermoso. His body lies at the church chapel in Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bulacan. Interment will be announced later.)

* * *

THE PHILIPPINES, according to Olympic purist and former POC president Julian Maldnso, is deviating from the real objectives in sports.

During a recent meeting of Mandaluyong Rotarians, straightforward Malonso said, "Filipinos are gold medal conscious, neglecting the grassroots. It is like manufacturing without the raw materials."

Continuing, ageless Malonso, now 78, said, "Sports is a way of life. But sad to say, sports is now most in the hands of politicians and businessman. Politicians are using sports for their political mileage and businessmen to advertise their products. They exploit the athletes."

As to sports facilities, Malonso said the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was erected way back in 1934 for the Far Eastern Games, yet no decent stadium was built since then. A land in Quezon City supposedly for sports was converted to a subdivision, which is now Project 6. During the martial law years, then first lady Imelda Marcos wanted to bid for the Olympics with plans to build the Games' facilities in Capispisan, Cavite. The grandiose plan did not materialize when President Ferdinand Marcos was ousted.

"The solution to the sports problem is to change," added Malonso. "And one way to do this is to replace the International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, Frank Elizalde, who is remiss in his duties and responsibilities. He took sides in the ouster of Cristy Ramos and interfered in the election of Philippine Olympic Committee president contested by Celso Dayrit and Go Teng Kok."

Government should support the national sports program but should not interfere in its operation, otherwise politics will creep into sports. Malonso stressed the President should lead in instituting reforms in sports. "One should not expect sports to run like heaven if the government is run like hell."

Munti kegler on top

AL Dy of Muntinlupa Bowling Association grabbed the upper hand in the 2nd Pepsi-GameworX Tenpin Bowling Classic yesterday at GameworX StriXe fourth level of Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang Muntinlupa City.

Dy's consistent game gave him a total of 2,489 pinfalls to lead 24 bowlers going to the last and final round of the tournament offering P50,000 to the winner.

Running second was national mainstay Jojo Canare of Youngtown who had 2,470 pinfalls, while elimination round leader Benny Dytoc dropped to third spot with 2,463 pinfalls.

Arnulfo Alipio from Dagupan City-TBA team took fourth spot with 2,457, Lippi Uy slipped to fifth place with 2,437, while Danny Marquez of FMTBA-Lipa City was in sixth position with 2,425 pinfalls.

MIZUNO-DHL VS CAP-SOUTHWOODS

Fil-Am stars strut wares today

BY AL S. MENDOZA

BAGUIO CITY—The spotlight begins to shine today on the supposed stars of the 52nd Film-Am Golf Championships.

Attention will now be riveted on the rivalry between defending champion CAP-Southwoods and close rival Mizuno-DHL.

CAP-Southwoods will gun for a third straight crown in both the Fil and Am divisions of this oldest national team championships.

Angelo Que, Artemio Murakami, Jerome Delariarte, Jun Jun Plana and Erwin Vinluan lead the CAP-Southwoods' stand in the four-day series using the Stableford system: 3 points for birdie and 2 points for par.

Mizuno-DHL pins its hopes on Mario Labajo, Jay Bayron, Marvin Dumandan, Gene Bondoc and the comebacking Emilio Tuason in the five-to-play, four-to-count tournament at both Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club.

"There will be little pressure," said CAP-Southwoods team manager Jeric Hechanova. "The guys are confident of snatching victory."

Que is the reigning national champion while Murakami was the 1999 national title holder. Delariarte was runner-up in the 2001 finals to Que. Plana is a permanent fixture in Southwoods teams.

Mizuno-DHL's Dumandan, Bayron and Bondoc (alternate) were part of the gold-medal producing Philippine Team to the last SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur. Juvic Pagunsan won the individual gold during the event. Labajo is a find from Davao while Tuason won the 1975 national amateur crown.

"Our chances? It will all boil down to the match-up of players" said Benny Gopez of Mizuno-DHL. "*Bilog ang bola di ba* (the ball is round, right)?"

Gopez said that although his team was formed in haste, "we made sure we got the right combination. Our intention was to give Southwoods a decent fight."

Added Gopez: "Without our challenge to Southwoods, the tournament will turn into a bore."

Mizuno-DHL's Am squad is equally tough with a cast of players like Tebor Marcelino, Jun Jun Grandeza, Jojo Fernando, Romy Decendario and I. Kiellberg.

In yesterday's Am Division Flight E, Councilor Antonio Tabora Jr. shot 24 points to power the Baguio City Council to a 19-point lead over PMA Cavaliers Centennial Bank.

Tabora got support from Peter Rey Bautista (20), Oscar Flores (19) and Melchor Rabanes (17).

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Philadelphia 76ers vs Sacramento Kings at 9 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - San Francisco Dons vs Fresno State Bulldogs at 1 p.m., Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs Indiana Hoosiers at midnight on ESPN

21st ABC Championship for Men 2001 - Chinese Taipei vs China, Quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports.

GOLF: Nedbank Golf Challenge 2001, Day Three at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Open, Final: Playoff at 10 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Monte-Carlo) Highlights at 11 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL's Greatest Moments - Black Star Rising at 8 a.m. on ESPN

TRIATHLON: Laguna Phuket Triathlon at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

JESS YUSON

BAGUIO Rep. Mauricio Domogan hits one of the tournament's ceremonial drives.

Cantada Sports Center opens

THE INAUGURATION of the Don Ambrosio Court and the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena today will officially kick off the opening of the first-class Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

"The Don Ambrosio Court has a Robbins maple wood hardcourt just like the one at the Araneta Coliseum and Ultra," said Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, the man responsible for the center.

"It has Porter goals. It is air-conditioned and is fully equipped with broadcast capable video equipment and facilities. At the same time, the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena has an Everlast International Competition Boxing Ring.

WayCool portable evaporating cooling fans will guarantee comfort for the spectators," he said.

The Center also has a modern, air-conditioned indoor shooting range complete with Spieth automatic target retrievers and dedicated video cameras and monitors.

A staff headed by Therese Cantada, the current air-pistol national record holder, will handle the instruction.

AIM Masters Dec. 27

THE ALUMNI Association of the Asian Institute of Management has invited former President Fidel V. Ramos to lead the participants in The AIM Masters at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite on Dec. 27, AAAIM chair Laarni J. Goseco announced yesterday.

The AIM Masters is the year-end invitational amateur golf tournament of AAAIM to enhance fellowship among alumni and guests, to generate needed funds for its social and community development projects and to help develop and promote amateur golf in the country.

Also invited to the event are former Secretary of Finance Roberto F. de Ocampo, now president of the Asian Institute of Management, Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita, honorary chair of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP), Rodolfo V. Feliciano, president of NGAP, and Hermie Esguerra, chair of Herma Group of Companies.

Update on The AIM Masters is available at the AAAIM office on 750-10-10, extension 2104 or at www.aimalumniphil.org for details.

What's Cuyapo Kid doing here?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—The allure of the Fil-Am Golf Championships has attracted a defending champion, several national players and a senator of the republic to play in its 52nd edition this year.

There are many more pedigreed golfers out here. Enjoying not their swings (maybe at times?) but the atmosphere of peace and enjoyment the tournament brings to participants annually since 1948.

Even a (dis)interested observer is around. Percy Della flew in from Sacramento, California, to bury his mother on Saturday in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Percy, he of the economy of words when he was a Manila sportswriter in the '70s, came here because he could not resist a friend's urging to visit this mountain resort he had not seen for 28 years.

"The Fil-Am has this magic that continues to captivate me over the years," said Sen. Tito Sotto, a single-digit handicapper whose love for the Fil-Am tournament has never waned. "Every year, I look forward to being a participant to this great golfing event."

I bumped into Tito yesterday at the timeless verandah of the Baguio Country Club.

"Ah, what a day," he said after completing his 18 holes for Capitol Hills. "Golf never ceases to relax me."

He was seated beside Pat Roman, an administration top gun at the Roman-controlled Capitol.

"Care to join me for a cup of coffee?" said Sotto. "Coffee would complete my day after a round of golf."

I politely declined.

"I need to rush my story, Mr. Senator," I said. "Thanks anyway."

Angelo Que is the reigning national champion. He will banner CAP-Southwoods' title-retention bid against Mizuno-DHL. A tough job. But knowing Angelo, he will rise, as always, to the challenge.

Several more national players are here—Marvin Dumandan, Gene Bondoc and Jay Bayron. They form the core of Mizuno-DHL, a team formed by Benny Gopez and Rod Feliciano.

But already, both Benny and Rod consider Emilio Tuason's entry into their team "a big victory." Tuason was the 1975 national amateur champion.

"Getting Emilio to play for us is an achievement in itself," said Benny. "I have always considered Emilio as not only a good golfer but a gentleman of the first order."

The Fil-Am field is blessed with stars.

Both of the past and present eras. Neat.

Cavite derby tonight

A TOTAL of 78 fights await cockfighting buffs at 6 tonight when Cavite Coliseum's Cavite 7-Cock International Derby enters its semifinal round.

Sponsors are Casino Filipino—Parañaque, Sagupaan Super Feeds and Calf-Manna Concentrated Ration.

Among those who shone in last Tuesday's eliminations were the entries of Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano (Pasko Na Sa Pasay 4-Cock Dec. 21), Conrad Burgos of San Diego, California (San Diego), Ucap stalwart Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo), Fil-Am cocker Richard Bates and Sen. Ramon Revilla (RLB RR), Strike Revilla (Bokal) and FRG Black, among others.

Twenty-eight new participants are joining the fray tonight. Fifty entries saw action last Monday.

Aficionados will be treated once more to fast-paced and electrifying encounters, aside from other gaming activities like slot machines, mini-baccarat and *pula-puti* at the coliseum lobby, to be managed by CF-Parañaque.

PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION 1990

3rd BATANG PINOY

Philippine National Youth Games
December 1 to 7, 2001 Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Overall Standings

	LSC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	MANILA	6	2	5	13
2	CEBU PROVINCE	6	2	1	9
3	BACOLOD CITY	4	2	7	13
4	RIZAL	4	0	2	6
5	CEBU CITY	3	5	4	12
6	MUNTINLUPA	3	2	2	7
7	NUEVA ECIJA	3	0	1	4
8	LAGUNA	2	4	1	7
9	ZAMBOANGA CITY	2	1	3	6
10	ZAMBALES	2	0	1	3

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Luzviminda 6-cock tilt at Roligon

RESPECTED cockers from all over the country have confirmed their participation in the much-awaited 1st Luzviminda Slasher Cup 6-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Dec. 10, 12, 15 and 17.

Among them are Raymund Velayo, lawyer Rudy Salud, engineer Jun Sevilla, Blonde Tolentino, Alan Tan, Vic Yu, Iking Araneta, Tito Aquino and Roming Vergara of the Luzon group.

From the Visayas and Mindanao the entries are Juancho Aguirre, Boy Ledesma, Boy Cuadra, Capt. Hechanova, Lance dela Torre, Ricoy Palmares, Marvin Javelosa and those from Bacolod and Iloilo.

For inquiries and cockhouse reservation call Roligon at 833-25-75 or 833-16-38.

Wang's, FedEx hurdle opponents

Games Today (University of Manila Gym)
9 a.m.— Cho Pat vs Spring Cooking Oil
6 p.m.— Healthy Options vs Wang's Ball Club

WANG'S Ball Club used its impeccable free throw shooting in the final minute to upset National Open Champion Spring Cooking Oil, 88-84; yesterday in the National Basketball League-Presidential Cup at the University of Manila Gym.

Wowie Ybanez, Joel Gaco and Ramil Ferma calmly sank their six freebies in the final 17 seconds to stun the Oil Makers and bounce back from an opening-day setback to FedEx National Men's Team in this 10-day cagefest held in honor of NBL president Christian Tan.

The FedEx RP Men's team cruised to its second straight victory with a 70-53 blasting of Chopat. The Nationals, who are coached by Johnny Tam and his deputy Ching Ching Marcelino, erected several 20-point leads, the last at 61-41.

CHAMP'S OWNER-BREEDER

Jun Almeda (left), owner and breeder of champion two-year-old filly Golden Ballet, receives the 2001 Philracom Juvenile Championship trophy from Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez following his horse's victory last Sunday in the P1-million race at the Santa Ana Park. Golden Ballet (Treasure Cay-Likeable Style) is now unbeaten in six straight races.

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Race 1—1. Going Free 2. High Roller 3. Gemstone

Race 2—1. Hurry King 2. The Mailman 3. Knows Love 4. El Bulldog

Race 3—1. Magnicolo 2. Precious Time 3. Premiere Event 4. Sunny View

Race 4—1. Top Mark 2. Super Dancer/Defense Minister 3. Rose in Bloom

Race 5—1. Sealed With A Kiss 2. Gifted Angel 3. Cool Under Fire 4. Choice for Change

Race 6—1. Rainbow Dazzler 2. Cardinal Rule 3. Hong Kong Girl 4. King Aldrin

Race 7—1. Native Talent/Southern Skies 2. Diligence/Vice Consul 3. Ray Moon 4. Standout 5. Padron Real

Race 8—1. Rock's Dragon 2. Kontra Todo 3. Dedicated

Race 9—1. Lorna 2. Charisma 3. Royal Worship 4. Gold and Dollar 5. Radiance 6. Profitable

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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Suspect in rape-slay of La Sallian nabbed A24
■ City Land residents told to leave A24
■ Robbers take P3.6M A24
■ Cops protest 'martial law' A25

Will 'Millionaire,' 'Weakest Link' say goodbye soon?

By Nini Valera and Leah Salterio

FANS of the top rating "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and "The Weakest Link" might just lose their favorite primetime television game shows.

The London producers of "Millionaire," Celador, is reportedly changing the terms of its contract with Viva Television, which owns the local rights to the show, barely a month into its second year of renewal and raising the airing fee from $2,500 per show to $12,000.

And GMA Network has succeeded in asking a court to stop Viva Television from airing the local version of "The Weakest Link."

A Viva executive, who did not want to be identified, said Celador wanted to renegotiate its terms after the local "Millionaire" became a national passion and shot up to the top of the rating game and triggered a slew of game shows on competing channels.

The executive said Viva big boss Vic del Rosario flew to the US after attending the Advertising Congress in Cebu last month to deal with the franchise owners himself. Del Rosario's daughter Veronique is the executive producer of "Millioniare," hosted by award-laden actor Christopher de Leon and aired Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays on IBC 13.

The local "Millionaire" celebrated its first anniversary last Nov. 13 with a special presentation featuring contestants who were born on that date.

De Leon, who had to train in London for his hosting job, had also renewed his multimillion-peso contract with Viva TV for another year. His talent fee plus the excessive cost of airing rights if Viva gave in to Celador's demand, and the price of airtime would definitely place the local "Millionaire" in considerable financial strain.

Even if "Millionaire" is said to be making about P2 million per day on Smart cell phone calls by wannabe contestants, and as much as P6.6 million on maximum commercial loads as per Kapisanan ng mga Broadkasters (KBP) rules of about 33 minutes for the one-and-a-half-hour show, Viva would still be hard-pressed to shoulder the almost 400 per cent rise in the cost of airing rights that Celador is asking.

Should "Millionaire" go, it's not only the excitement and entertainment value it offers that would vanish with it. The hope

MILLIONAIRE/A25

DE LEON

MANZANO

'BENIPAYO VERY ANGRY'

Tancangco warned: Be careful

By Blanche S. Rivera and Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER Commission on Elections director Angelina Matibag, predecessor of slain Comelec director Velma Cinco, had warned Comelec commissioner Luz Tancangco that Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo was very angry at her.

Tancangco yesterday told the INQUIRER that Matibag had also told her to watch out for surveillance squads.

"She didn't even tell me if it was the police or what," Tancangco said, adding that she spoke to Matibag only briefly on the phone.

"But she did say the chair (Alfredo Benipayo) was very angry at me."

Since early this year, Tancangco's camp had been at odds with Benipayo.

Tancangco said Matibag told her to be careful because unidentified surveillance teams were watching her, too. She said her friend told her to watch out for a BMW car or a Starex van because these were the vehicles used by those conducting the surveillance on her.

But Matibag did not say why Tancangco was being watched or who was watching her.

Matibag's brother had issued the license for the gun of one of the suspects in the ambush and killing of Cinco on Nov. 20.

On Monday, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said they would invite Matibag because her name has consistently cropped up in their investigation. She earlier said she was willing to face the authorities if they invited her.

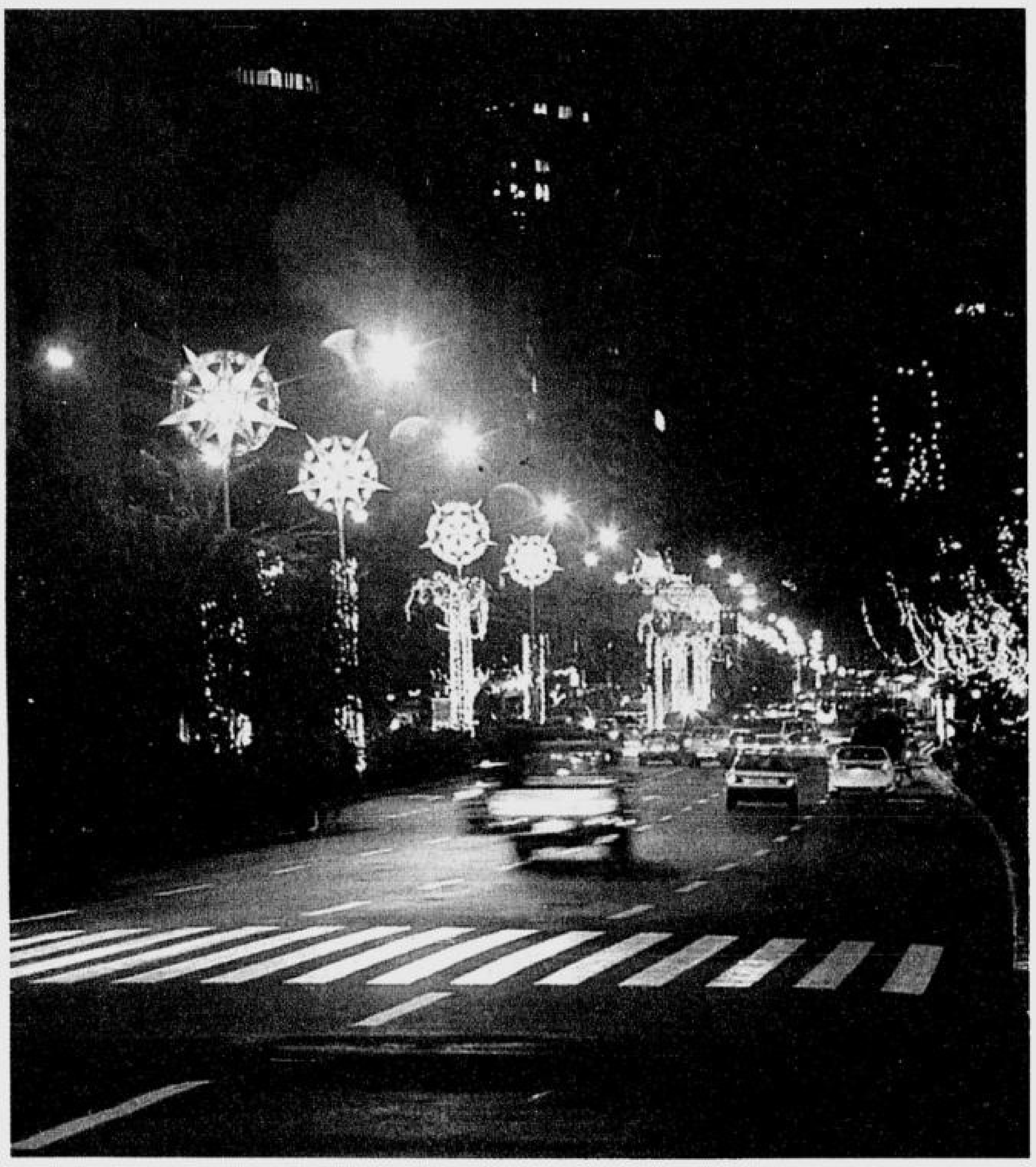
"I am very willing and eager to give my statements, but they have not called me," Matibag had said in an earlier interview.

"I didn't kill her (Cinco)," she had said. "I'm not that stupid. We have had rifts before, and I'm sure I would be the first suspect if anything happens to her."

Both Matibag and Tancangco said they had received death threats. Matibag even claimed the gunmen who killed Cinco might have actually been after her.

In Baguio City on Sunday, Benipayo admitted

TANCANGCO/A25


AYALA ALL AGLOW
From dusk till the wee hours, Ayala Avenue in Makati City's Central Business District has been ablaze with lanterns and lights as early as November. The office buildings, too, have put up their Christmas displays.

Why Manila dad wants arms for city residents

By Jerome Aning

THE murder of election official Velma Cinco is one of the major reasons why a Manila councilor is pushing for a bill that will grant city residents the right to arm themselves and organize self-defense units in their barangays.

In an interview, Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. of the sixth district said he learned from his constituents that half an hour before Cinco was killed on Nov. 20, workers at a Petron gasoline station on Pedro Gil in Sta. Ana spotted the gunmen positioning themselves at the ambush site.

Logarta told the Inquirer that the employees called for assistance from a nearby police community precinct, thinking the men were about to hold up on the gas station.

"But the policemen arrived 10 minutes after the ambush," the councilor said. "Had they responded to the call, the slaying might have been prevented."

Logarta, who represents the Sta. Mesa-Sta. Ana districts, said he is close to a brother of Cinco. He said the car the elections official was riding in when she was ambushed belonged to a friend of his and Cinco's brother.

The alderman stressed that when "it seems that the police are not doing their jobs, the residents have no recourse but to exercise their right to defend themselves."

The other day, Commission on Human Rights chief Aurora Reciña said she does not find anything wrong with the arming of civilians, as long as they secure the proper permits and use the firearms only for self-defense.

Logarta's proposal calls for barangay and city officials to organize, on a voluntary basis, all licensed gun owners into "barangay self-defense forces," which would help safeguard peace and order in their communities.

The BSDF units will go on patrol duties, with their firearms on display to deter potential troublemakers.

"With self-defense units patrolling the barangay, it will be the crooks who will be placed in a situation where they will be afraid to commit crime," he said.

Logarta said police would also train the BSDF units on how to deal with specific situations such as hostage cases and robberies.

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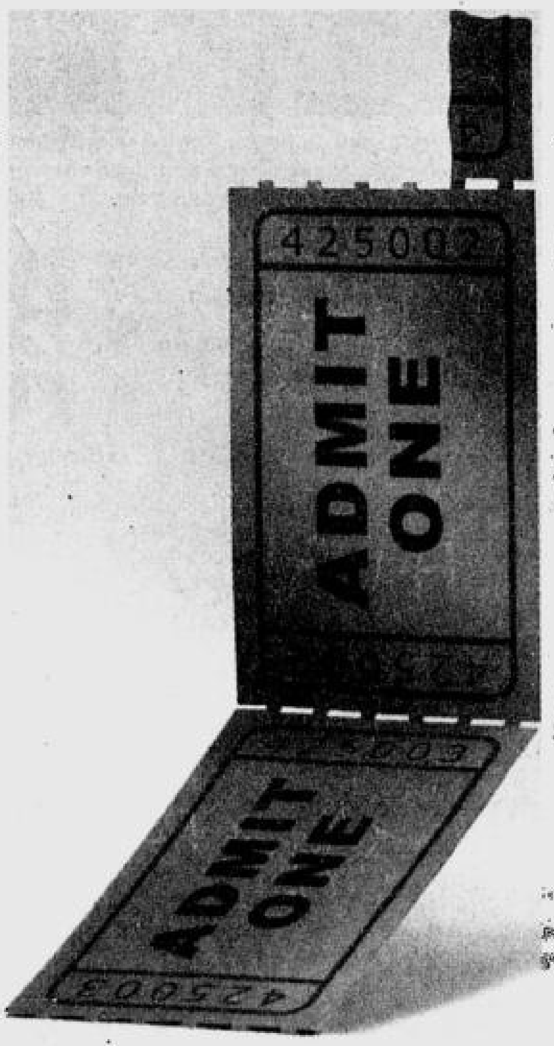

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Suspect in rape slay of La Sallian nabbed

By Christian V. Esguerra

MUNTINLUPA police over the weekend arrested a suspect in the brutal rape-slay of a De La Salle student early this year.

Donardo Pagkalinawan, 45, was arrested by members of the Drug Enforcement Unit and the Station Investigation and Intelligence Division inside his house in Bayanan, Muntinlupa.

Considered Muntinlupa's most wanted person, Pagkalinawan is suspected to be one of five men who raped and killed Claudine Feliciano last March.

Feliciano's bloodied, half-naked body was found in a Parañaque creek while her car was recovered in Makati City.

Two of Pagkalinawan's alleged accomplices had been arrested earlier by the National Bureau of Investigation, while two others remain at large.

Authorities said Pagkalinawan was involved in the rape-slay of a mother and her daughter in Las Piñas. He is also said to be the leader of a car theft syndicate.

Pagkalinawan's group usually preyed on young women drivers, according to police.

The gang members, they said, would usually deflate the tires of cars driven by women and offer help. Later, they would allegedly hitch a ride with the victims then rob, rape or kill them.

Pagkalinawan was the subject of a manhunt for about a year. He was finally arrested when an informant told police that he would go to his house on Saturday.

The suspect is now in the custody of the Southern Police District.

BLDG FOUNDATION ERODED

City Land residents told to leave

By Nelson F. Flores

PASIG City Mayor Soledad Eusebio urged tenants of City Land townhouse units in the city to vacate their homes after city building officials discovered that the foundation of the units has been severely eroded.

Eusebio told the Inquirer at least 37 families residing at the City Land Townhouse on Lanuza Street, Barangay Oranbo, would have to leave their homes until the developer has corrected the problem. She said her office last week posted notice to tenants to vacate the premises.

Eusebio said there is a danger that the townhouses, which were built in the 1980s on the edge of a cliff near the Philsport Arena (formerly Ultra), may collapse, similar to what happened to the houses in Cherry Hills Subdivision, Antipolo City two years ago where scores were killed.

"The notice to vacate issued by my office serves as a preventive measure," Eusebio explained.

Eusebio said building officials conducting regular inspections of high rise buildings in the area noted the severe erosion at the cliff and the huge cracks it caused on the retaining walls of the townhouses. She said the only thing that is preventing the total collapse of the structures along the cliff is the retaining wall, which is now severely damaged.

Should the buildings collapse, Eusebio said, it would fall on unsuspecting residents of Valle Verde, which is located at the foot of the now eroded cliff.

Quoting a city building official, Eusebio said it would take at least P40 million to repair the damage caused by the erosion.

She expressed fears that a slight movement in the Marikina fault line may result in the total collapse of the cliff.

The mayor said City Land tenants should sue the developer of their townhouses and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board for neglect. She said the townhouses should not have been built on the edge of the cliff and that the developers should have foreseen this kind of problem.

Eusebio explained that the townhouses were built at a time when the HLURB was the sole government agency responsible for giving clearance permits for projects of this kind.

She said that despite the issuance of a completion permit by the HLURB, the developer wanted only to turn over to the local government supervision and maintenance of the roads of the subdivision, excluding the vacant lots.

"That's the reason why until now management of the subdivision has yet to be transferred to the local government because of lots of problems," said Eusebio.

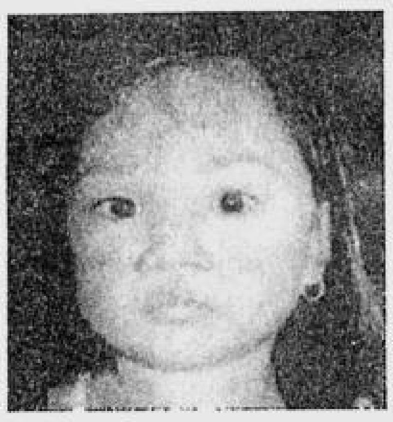
Due to the severity of the problem, she said she wrote the Commission on Audit seeking permission to use government funds to rehabilitate and repair the cracks found in the subdivision.

Eusebio explained that because the subdivision is on private property, the city government cannot just release money for the purpose. Local government officials also need to secure the Commission on Audit's approval as required by law.

Yesterday, the Inquirer also received reports that building defects were also allegedly found at the City Land Tower in Mandaluyong City.

But Gil Baldemor, building manager, denied the report, saying City Land engineers who examined the premises found no structural defect in the building.

Chato Perez, City Land assistant vice president for public information, said her office would issue a statement today on the findings of the Pasig City building official and the subsequent issuance of notices to vacate premises for the tenants of City Land Townhouse Pasig.



Missing

CHRISTINE Anne Rachelle Cecilio, or "Tin-Tin," of Block 197 Lot 7 Pitimini St., Geneva Gardens Neopolitan VII, Fairview, Quezon City, is missing. Tin-Tin was last seen wearing green pants and blouse, and white rubber shoes.

Tin-Tin is the daughter of Ramon and Gigi Cecilio. If you know where she is, please call 935-6235, Willie at 461-3468, Vic at 9394460. Or text Ramon at 0919-5673751 or Gigi at 0919-2046848.

Theme: ISANG KAHANDAAN TUNGO SA P
MAYNILA
DATE: DECEMBER 3-7, 2001
Sponsor: MAYOR JOSE L. ATI
THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF
DepED-MANILA

MAYOR Lito Atienza turns over his post to Boy Mayor John Carlo Daquiz and Vice Mayor Rachel Joy Bonifacio. Witnessing the turnover are (from left) Councilor Don Bagatsing, Amy Tolentino, Rea Fugoso and Division of City Schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quiñones.

Who's the dumbest of them all at the BAP?

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad

SOMEONE had made the empty claim that China would not be sending its strongest basketball team to next year's Pusan Asian Games.

No self-respecting Pinoy basketball fan would buy that.

It was as blind and dumb as saying Filipinos, rich or poor, hungry or overweight, would not be observing Christmas on Dec. 25.

Reporting from ringside, the Bulletin's Tito Talao said he could not officially confirm who made the silly conjecture.

But Talao offered to name two main suspects: Tiny Literal, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, and his sec-gen, Graham Lim.

Naturally, Talao reported, the culprits received a neat beating from Ron Jacobs, coach of the RP basketball team to the Asiad.

It was not a crude censure, though.

Jacobs did not sound like one over-dressed lawmaker going at another solon's throat in the halls of Congress.

Jacobs did it clinically.

But, mind you, the punches he threw, swift and sharp, which Talao noted Muhammad Ali would've have been proud of, definitely found their mark.

Pounded Jacobs: "Whoever said that doesn't know the Chinese."

* * *

Or is very stupid.

Whoever said that has no business being with the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Period.

The affair was last week's Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum at the Holiday Inn.

Our man at ringside said neither Literal nor Lim flinched, although there were reports one of them had "authored the statement which Jacobs tore to shreds."

Jacobs proceeded with the unscheduled scolding in full dignity.

"Do you think the Chinese will go to Korea and allow themselves to be beaten by the Koreans?" he asked matter-of-factly.

All Literal and Lim could do was sit firm, pretending they had not heard anything.

They had, of course, been hit—hard.

They had been scathed, but Talao said the two BAP top officials behaved like a badly jolted boxer expertly trying to hide the damage and hurt.

* * *

After the setup, Jacobs paused and threw the knockout punch.

Still, he presided over the execution with surgical precision.

Jacobs could've ranted and charged the BAP with ignorance and incompetence.

But with the opposition visibly on the verge of a knockout, he refused to throw a bare, crude killer blow.

He sent his message with grace and finesse.

If we have a good basketball program, Jacobs coolly admonished, we won't be going through all this taxing, tedious process.

If there are truly qualified people in the amateur basketball body, we won't have to go through this kind of selection process over again.

This time, Talao explained, both Literal and Lim could not just roll with the punches.

The kayo blow had found its mark. And, next seen, Literal and Lim were meekly headed for the exit like inseparable twins.

* * *

That's it. As invited guests, Literal and Lim were supposed to be among the resource persons during the PSA Forum.

They had been expected to detail the exact role of the BAP in the national basketball venture to next year's Asian Games.

Maybe they would be explaining something about the accreditation procedures. You know, to prevent a repeat of the hilarious BAP list-up for the last KL SEA Games wherein Literal ended up enrolling nearly a hundred people for the RP basketball group.

Of course, after Jacobs tore up the stupid conjecture on China pulling its punches in the Pusan Asiad, the BAP twins were reduced to mere props in the PSA Forum.

* * *

No, Jacobs did not intend to demean the BAP in openly demanding that nobody in his right mind should buy the China bluff.

In fact, practically all the other sports scribes present during the session did not read any urgency in what Jacobs had to bare.

Whoever said China would not be sending its strongest team to the Pusan Asiad, Jacobs stressed, doesn't know what he's talking about.

Little did he know, Tito Talao would confess, that other than being a fine basketball coach, Ron Jacobs was also an accomplished boxer.

Yes, he presided over an unscheduled clinical demolition that, in the end, bared the dumb company they keep at the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

At least, coach Ron did not do it brutally.

He was kind enough not to make public who's the dumbest of them all.

Boys and girls rule Manila

RACHEL Joy M. Bonifacio, a junior at Manila Science High School, was elected vice mayor of Manila during the 2001 Boys and Girls Week.

Bonifacio took her oath of office on Dec. 3 at the Freedom Triangle of Manila City Hall. The Boys and Girls Week project is conducted annually by the city government in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Bonifacio is the recipient of a one-year grant as an exchange student to Japan under the Asean-Japan High School Exchange Program for school year 2002-2003. She was also the regional champion in the recent DECS-NCR 2001 Search for Kid Listo, a project for Drug Abuse Prevention Education.

A consistent honor student, she went to pre-school and grade school at St. Paul College of Parañaque.

Robbers take P3.6M

By Agnes E. Donato

ROBBERS took at least P3.6 million in cash and valuables in two separate incidents in Quezon City.

In Cubao, the robbers ran away with an estimated P2 million worth of assorted items when they broke into an unguarded Cebuana Lhuillier pawnshop.

Police believe the robbery at the pawnshop at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and F. Castillo Street was committed between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. yesterday, with the robbers entering through the ceiling.

The heist, however, was only discovered at 8:45 a.m. when employees started coming.

Police said a possible suspect was a resident of an apartment unit near the pawnshop. Police said the man moved into the apartment unit only last Dec. 1 but he had not been seen in the area since the robbery.

It was also learned that the pawnshop has only one security guard who is on duty only when the shop is open.

The other robbery occurred at the residence of a businessman in Barangay Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

Stephen Cheung, 49, reportedly lost P1.6 million when five men barged into his house and hogtied him and members of his family shortly before 1 p.m. Monday.

Investigation showed that family driver Cresencio Supot was opening the gate for Cheung's car when the five men suddenly appeared and announced the robbery.

The men, armed with long and short firearms, dragged Cheung out of the car and tied him up, along with the rest of his family.

Cheung and his family were left in the living room while the robbers ransacked the house, including the master bedroom.

The robbers reportedly took P800,000 in cash, two Rolex wristwatches with diamonds, a Seiko wristwatch, a gold bracelet, a Mitsubishi car stereo and two mobile phones.

They fled on board a silver Toyota Revo, police said.

Quezon City press club honors 13 councilors

THIRTEEN reelected and neophyte Quezon City councilors were recently honored by the Quezon City Press Club (QCPC) for their exemplary public service to the 2.2 million residents of the city.

In a statement, QCPC acting president and Peoples' Journal reporter Froilan Garcia said the annual awards are given to outstanding city councilors based on the quality of their proposed ordinances and resolutions, the quality of their services to the community, their participation in committee council deliberations, attendance in council sessions and their media relations.

Garcia said this year's awards were classified into two categories—the Manuel Luis Quezon-Bantayog Awards for six reelected councilors and the Feliciano Belmonte Sr. Awards for six neophyte councilors.

The recipients of the MLQ Bantayog Awards are reelectionist councilors Victor "Jun" Ferrer, Elizabeth "Beth" Delarmente and Rommel Abesamis (all of District 1), Eric Medina (District 2), Julian Coseteng (District 4) and Jesus Manuel "Bong" Suntay (District 4).

Neophyte councilors Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Cruz (District 1), Godofredo Voltaire "Bong" Liban III and Ramon "Toto" Medalla (both of District 2), lawyer Antonio "Ariel" Enrile-Inton, Janet "Babes" Malaya and Restituto "Resty" Malañgen (all of District 4) received the Feliciano Belmonte Sr. Award, Garcia added.

Three-term councilor Wilma Amoranto-Sarino of District 1 was awarded the Manuel Luis Quezon Hall of Fame Award.

Garcia said the awardees are selected through a vote by the 34 members of QCPC.

Lantern contest and parade

THE QUEZON City District of the United Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service (UMWSCS) will hold its second Christmas lantern parade and contest on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. at the Quezon City Circle.

The lantern contest theme is "Jesus Christ, Reason for the Christmas Season." Participation is open to all QC district local organizations such as UMYF, UMYAF, UMWSCS, UMM, clergy spouses and pastors' children.

Criteria for judgment are relevance to theme, originality, creativity and beauty.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

For details, call Vin Ferrer at 415-7044 or Nina Reyes at 455-5169.

Expected to join are 18 groups from Bagong Buhay, Bagong Silang, Del Monte, Deparo, Fairview North, Fairview Park, Good Samaritan, John Mark, Kamuning, Lagro, Llano, Maligaya, Pansol, Puno, Sauyo, St. John, Tala and Village.

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News that makes a difference

Cops protest 'martial law'

By Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of the Western Police District yesterday threatened to go on a mass walkout in protest of what they described as "martial law" imposed by Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay.

Aglipay had issued his new set of rules, but the policemen are complaining particularly about Aglipay's memo ordering policemen to attend their roll call formation and to be in their uniforms when on duty.

Policemen who are late three times for roll call also face sanctions, according to Aglipay's rules, which did not go well with the policemen, especially those assigned to the WPD headquarters.

"We are under martial law," a policeman grumbled. "We do our work diligently but we are the ones who are suffering from these new rules.

"There are 15/30 policemen but they do not get punished," he added. "*Palakasan talaga.*"

But Supt. Federico Castro, head of the WPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said the new rules were intended exactly to weed out the dead wood in the police force.

"It's not martial law," Castro said. "We just want the public to get what they paid with their taxes. We want to make sure that the policeman is there, ready to serve."

He said the strict disciplinary rules had been implemented before and were just being introduced again. Those who are late three times are not automatically punished and could still present their side and provide a legitimate reason for their tardiness, he said.

The dissenting policemen still want to see Aglipay's reaction to their protest.

"We want to know his reaction," said one policeman. "Then we will decide if we are going to proceed with the walkout."

Will 'Millionaire' . . .

(From page A23)

of millions of Filipino viewers of becoming millionaires would also disappear. And primetime TV would never be the same again.

Barred

In an order dated Nov. 29, 2001, Judge Vivencio S. Baclig of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, ordered Viva TV to stop broadcasting "The Weakest Link" or any "adaptation, derivation or modification" of the show, whether in English or Filipino.

GMA Network filed for an injunction with damages on Sept. 7, 2001 against Viva TV, as well as ECM (European Communications Management) Europe and ECM Asia, foreign distributors of "The Weakest Link."

GMA Network claimed ECM Europe offered them "The Weakest Link" in June this year after Viva TV declined to produce the local version of the British game show.

Lawyer Dan Albert de Padua, GMA vice president for network operations and programming, said ECM offered "The Weakest Link" to Viva last May for $1,000 per episode and an executive production package of P80,000.

The foreign distributors later negotiated with GMA senior vice president Bobby Barreiro and offered the game show to the network for $2,000 per episode and a production package of P104,000.

"That same day, Bobby accepted it and didn't even try to bargain for a lower production package," De Padua told the INQUIRER. "He shook hands with the ECM executives, who even phoned their office in London to inform them about the deal with us."

Verbal contract

The court initially denied GMA's application for temporary restraining order. But after hearing and receiving evidence on GMA's application for preliminary injunction, the court ruled there was a "perfected verbal contract" between GMA and ECM Europe and ECM Asia for 'The Weakest Link.'"

De Padua said GMA was already finalizing the details to produce the local "Weakest Link."

However, the network was not aware that ECM offered the game show again to Viva TV, which increased its earlier bid to clinch the rights to air "The Weakest Link."

Viva reportedly agreed to pay ECM $2,300 per episode and a production package of P104,000.

The court also found out that when Viva subsequently raised its original proposal of $1,000 to $2,300 per episode, the company was well aware of the claim of GMA on the game show.

Unlawful

"Viva unlawfully interfered ... and negotiated with the defendants ECM Europe and ECM Asia on the same program," the court statement said.

GMA vice president for creative services Bogie Gallardo said the network filed the case last September, weeks before Viva TV aired the pilot episode of "The Weakest Link."

"We concluded with a handshake with ECM," Gallardo said. "If they practiced good business ethics, they shouldn't have entertained the other side even if there was a counter offer."

De Padua said they want ECM to honor its verbal contract with the network, "so we can eventually produce 'The Weakest Link'."

"The Weakest Link" is hosted by Edu Manzano.

"Clearly, there was bad faith on the part of the defendant Viva TV when it negotiated and contracted with the defendants of ECM Europe and ECM Asia on 'The Weakest Link,'" the court noted. "Plaintiff has then clear legal right against the defendant Viva TV."

Tancangco warned . . .

(From page A23)

he was sorry his decision to replace Matibag with Cinco might have led to the latter's murder.

But Benipayo said the decision was prompted by what he described as a "scandalous" period of "shenanigans" under Matibag's administration at the Comelec education and information division. Benipayo told participants in the 6th National Press Congress of the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (PAPI) in Baguio that Matibag was to blame for the confusion in the party-list elections and the disenfranchisement of some 3 million new registrants this year.

He conceded that the Comelec erred in providing information about the prescheduled registration period for the May 14 elections this year and the confusion that surfaced when the party-list system replaced the old sectoral representatives in Congress.

The confusion was traceable to Matibag's office, Benipayo said.

"I am confident we will have the mastermind very soon," Benipayo said without elaborating.

But he revealed that Matibag did not take her replacement lightly. "*Galit na galit, ayaw lumipat* (She was very furious. She did not want to leave her post)," he said.

He said foul-ups in the information management of the party-list system had already affected the Comelec.

He said Matibag began releasing information kits and primers about the party-list system only a few days before the May 14 elections.

Benipayo also blamed Matibag for the absence of an information campaign announcing the registration schedules for new voters. Comelec was flooded with complaints about disenfranchised voters.

Police yesterday asked Matibag to produce the remaining suspects in the Cinco killing, who were still at large.

"Let her present this people for questioning. If they are really innocent, they should come out into the open," said Supt. Federico Castro, Western Police District-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit chief and Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco) spokesperson.

Castro also named the remaining suspects as former casual employees of the Comelec Carlo Tumambing, Rudy Fortich, and Matibag's security aide and driver Mario V. Francisco.

Tumambing had been identified earlier as an ex-soldier but police said he was not in the roster of the PNP or the military, according to Castro. He said Tumambing and Fortich worked for Matibag at the Comelec but were not rehired when Cinco took assumed the post.

Police were also looking at the possibility that Cinco was killed because she did not rehire casual employees.

Castro urged the three suspects to come out since they would only be questioned. He said he had received reports that Matibag's camp was complaining that the task force had no evidence against Matibag and Robles, the lone suspect under the investigators' custody.

Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas, was arrested last Thursday at a Batangas sugar plantation allegedly owned by the Matibag family. He was charged on Monday with murder and frustrated murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Cinco was ambushed at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila while she was on her way to work on board her red Kia Pride with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

Cinco, 62, died from four gunshot wounds in the head and body. Carlo was hit in the right shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

Robles was also charged with illegal possession of firearms before a Batangas court after he was found with an unlicensed .32 browning pistol.

Matibag's brother, Col. Ernesto Matibag, claimed that he gave Robles a mission order, allowing him to carry the gun. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon
ALAY NI CONGRESSMAN
MARK JIMENEZ

FREEDOM Park across Malacañang illuminated by, as the billboard says, Rep. Mark Jimenez. EDWIN BACASMAS

MJ lights up Malacañang park

By Carlito Pablo

CONTROVERSIAL Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez has illuminated Freedom Park in front of Malacañang with hundreds of Christmas lights and lanterns, outshining the lights installed on the Palace grounds.

Once considered by former Palace tenant Joseph Estrada as a "financial genius," Jimenez, now outside the corridors of power, has made sure that his work of gift of lights will not be unnoticed.

Three billboards, two of which are facing the Palace, were installed at Freedom Park, proclaiming "*Ilaw at Parol Alay ni* Mark Jimenez" (Lights and lanterns given by Mark Jimenez).

Supporters who were putting finishing touches to the display last Monday night said Jimenez inspected the park last Saturday and even made suggestions on how to make it more attractive.

"When he was here last Saturday, he received a call on his cell phone and he was invited to go inside the Palace," said a male supporter who was at Freedom Park last Saturday.

"We heard that he and GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) recently stood as sponsors in a wedding in Makati," the supporter said. This could not be immediately verified.

The same supporter, who asked not to be identified, said Freedom Park is one of the nine public parks Jimenez ordered to be lighted up for the holiday season.

As representative of Manila's 6th district, Jimenez's jurisdiction covers San Miguel in which the Palace is located, as well as Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana, Bacood and Pandacan.

In the last elections, Jimenez beat veteran politician Pablo Ocampo.

"There is no politics here," said the supporter, referring to the lights and lanterns. "It's for Christmas and Christmas is for everyone. Besides, (Jimenez) has no personal fight with GMA.

"He and (First Gentleman Jose Miguel) Mike Arroyo were schoolmates in Ateneo, weren't they?"

The same supporter said he didn't know how much the display cost but added that it was Jimenez's personal expense.

Jimenez, also known as Mario Crespo, is the subject of an extradition request by the United States where he is facing charges of illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party of former US President Bill Clinton.

The Truth about Cityland Townhouse

Cityland is as much, if not more, concerned about the safety and well being of the Homeowners at Valley High Townhomes (formerly Cityland Townhouse).

Cityland Townhouse was developed in 1982 in compliance with all government rules and regulations and in accordance with the plans and specifications determined by engineering, foundation and subsoil professionals.

The townhouses were built with their foundations either on adobe rock base or long concrete bored piles.

The structures have passed through major disasters: 1984 flood, 1990 earthquake, 1995 La Nina, etc. The structures are very strong. The riprap walls protecting the adobe have been in existence for almost 25 years now.

The Cityland Townhouses, Inc. (Association) was organized in 1984 for the proper maintenance and preservation of all common areas for the benefit of all members/residents. The Association, with the cooperation and support of all its members, is expected to maintain these with the diligence of a good father of a family.

Over the years, Cityland has constantly and regularly reminded the Association to undertake appropriate maintenance measures.

Unfortunately, year after year, for many years, the Association has:
1. neglected the maintenance
2. allowed the drainage system to breakdown thus causing water to go to the subsoil, which unduly overloads the subsoil
3. allowed illegal constructions even at critical areas and
4. allowed rampant growth of shrubs on the adobe walls facing St. Martin Street and Valle Verde I

It is well known fact that roots can slowly break stones and even concrete.

This negligence on the part of the Association may be the main cause of whatever SUPERFICIAL deterioration that has taken place. The property where the erosion occurred does not belong to Cityland. Over a period of almost twenty years, only some SURFACE of the adobe was affected.

As a first step, it is of utmost importance that the Association undertake without further delay the following:
1. the immediate and full rehabilitation of the drainage system and the clay cover along Block 6 to prevent the open spaces from being water locked
2. prevent growth of vegetation by continuous and regular cutting of any shrubs, branches or trees, preferably every six (6) months
3. remove all illegal constructions, including the unlawful occupation of easements and open spaces

Cityland is willing to work with the Association's Board of Directors, to assist in identifying the appropriate measures that need to be undertaken. In fact, Cityland has sent engineers, without expense to the Association, to do the initial survey/study to determine the current condition of Cityland Townhouse.

The townhouse units were sold at a very reasonable price of as low as ₱150,000 per unit. With a land area of 50 sqm and at the zonal value of ₱25,000 per sqm., the land alone of each townhouse unit is now worth ₱1.25 Million Pesos. There are 305 units in the subdivision.

After almost twenty years, isn't it time for children who have grown up to finally mature and take responsibilities instead of crying "wolf" and continuously calling on their parents for help?

The analogy is:
1. the roof is leaking
2. the residents, instead of repairing the roof, started shouting: "We are drowning!"
3. the inspector condemned the house
4. people in the street are shouting: "People are drowning!"

when in fact, only the roof is leaking.

(For clarification, please call Ms. Chato Perez at telephone nos. 819-5772 or 893-6060 local 171, Cellphone no. 0917-830-7914)

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'SERENDIPITY'

It's romantic but it's not true to life, and it leaves out the casualties of love

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

FILMS that are worth watching, like any art form, have the ability to make you remember something about them long after you've seen them.

Here I am having a few beers at Remembrances when I find myself thinking about "Serendipity." The movie is not that great, but I must admit that after seeing it, I walked out of the theater with this warm, fuzzy feeling all over me. Perhaps that's what the filmmakers intended all along. Hollywood has a knack for selling romantic destiny and I'm always a sucker for it.

"Serendipity" left me with something more than a romantic mood, though. Now, two weeks after I've seen it, it has me thinking about the losers.

The losers? Yes, the losers, the casualties, those characters who have fallen by the wayside as their partners pursue true love. They are the people who thought they had destiny on their side until the man or woman they fell in love with lowers the boom on them: "Sorry, honey, but you're not the one for me."

Here I am in my slightly intoxicated state thinking of John Cusack's Jonathan and Kate Beckinsale's Sara. They make such a charming pair. And how delightfully destiny brings them together in the film!

They reach for the same pair of gloves at Bloomingdale's during some last-minute Christmas shopping and end up spending the rest of the evening together. At Sara's insistence they leave their future in the hands of fate. Jonathan writes his name and phone number on a $5 bill, which she puts into circulation by buying something at a newsstand, and she writes her name inside a copy of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera," which she sells at a secondhand bookstore.

Bellamy role

If they are really meant to be together, then either the money or the book will find its way into their hands again.

Of course, there can only be one satisfactory ending, and it's just a matter of plot twists before they fall into each other's arms. Heck, Cusack and Beckinsale look so good together in the film, I'd want nothing more. When they finally meet again at the skating rink in Central Park, I feel as giddy as a teener on a first date.

WINNERS AND LOSERS. Delightful destiny brings Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack together, but what happens to their partners?

But now on my fifth beer, it hits me. What about their partners Halley (Bridget Moynahan) and Lars (John Corbett)? What's going to happen to them after destiny has pulled the rug out from under their feet? There's a case to be made for the losers in Hollywood films.

Class act

I remember Walter, Bill Pullman's character in "Sleepless in Seattle." His role is what Hollywood calls "the Bellamy role," named after Ralph Bellamy who was typecast as the decent and dull suitor always nudged aside so that the hero and heroine could make a life together.

In "Sleepless," Walter is Annie's (Meg Ryan) boyfriend. They have been living together for years. But one night, Annie hears Sam (Tom Hanks) on a radio talk show describing how much he loved his dead wife. She falls for him instantly and resolves to find him because she believes with all her heart that Sam is her true love. Of course in films like this, he most certainly is.

Poor Walter. He's a nice guy whose only flaw is that he sneezes a lot. He's made to look boring, of course, but then again, how many men still seem exciting to a woman after a few years of living together?

Whatever his faults are, there is one scene in the film that tells of his honesty and his nobility even in defeat. Sensing she's no longer happy with him, Walter lets go of Annie even as he holds her engagement ring in his hand. I can't forget what he told her: "Maybe I don't want you to just settle for me." Now that's class.

As "Serendipity" and a host of other films show, Bellamy roles don't just go to men. In "An Affair to Remember" (Sleepless in Seattle's inspiration), Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr are both engaged to be married when they find each other during a cruise. They fall in love and propose to meet each other at the top of the Empire State Building in six months (perhaps the most famous proposal in cinematic history).

The interlude gives them enough time to set their affairs in order, which includes getting rid of their partners. Grant's fiancée in the film is an heiress while Kerr's boyfriend is a rich businessman. They have no problem being their partners' cash cows but they are dumped just the same. Sacrificed for true love.

Not true to life

The list goes on. In "Serendipity" Halley and Lars just disappear. No messy breakup scenes or sentimental goodbyes. Maybe the filmmakers do not want Jonathan and Sara's romance sullied by things like guilt. Honestly, I feel the same way while watching the film.

But now, while nursing my beer, I'm thinking differently. I realize there are probably just as many Bellamy roles as there are films with "destiny" themes. Indeed, the appeal of such films is as old as love itself. People like the idea of meeting their true love to be a Hallmark moment. "From the moment our eyes met I knew this person was the one." That's the kind of cliché-mongering we happily buy into.

As Rosie O' Donnell told Meg Ryan in "Sleepless in Seattle," "You don't want to fall in love. You want to fall in love in a movie."

Many of us do, too. It's romantic. It's fun. But it's not always true to life.

Sometimes truer to life is a Jerry Maguire who marries his accountant out of loyalty, but realizes in the end that he truly loves her, that there cannot be a happy moment ever if she is not with him. "You complete me," he tells her.

Or truer to life can be the love of Carol for the most obnoxious person she's ever known, Melvin, in "As Good as It Gets." It's enough that she makes him want to be a better man.

Other versions

Sometimes meeting your true love is not easy, and there aren't always sparks. Sometimes, time reveals the wrong person to be the right one. Sometimes, togetherness is the grist mill that determines love to be true. True love is not the surest thing. It can be boring. It can be imperfect. Because it happens in real life.

Those who find true love don't always end up with each other. Sometimes true love can be better seen in the sacrifice lovers make: In Francesca's staying with her family in "The Bridges of Madison County," or in Rick's persistence that Ilsa take the plane in Casa Blanca. He's happy enough that they'll always have Paris.

There are other versions of true love that do not begin with "Once upon a time…" and end with "And they lived happily ever after." There are other versions of true love where the Bellamies are the heroes and heroines.

Thankfully, there are films that get those versions as well.

Five super-blockbusters hit the magic $200-M mark this year

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EACH film year, only around 10 Hollywood movies turn out to be hits by making at least $100M each at the box office. As for those even more unusual films that earn a whopping $200M apiece, they can be counted annually on just two fingers.

But Film Year 2001 is truly unusual because, now that it's about to end, it looks like five blockbusters will hit that magic mark.

The first huge hit this year was "The Mummy Returns," a most unusual sequel because it did even better than the first "Mummy" movie that was shown a couple of years ago. The film's $200-M gross made a major box-office draw of its star, **Brendan Fraser**, who is now being touted as the new **Harrison Ford**.

Next to make it big was "Rush Hour 2," proving that **Jackie Chan** has become one of Hollywood's most bankable stars. For decades, Chan painstakingly built up a loyal regional following, and only after he had established this dependable base did he go for broke and head for Hollywood, or bust.

Well, Chan's "methodical gamble" has paid off in the mega-millions, and his popularity at the box office has not just made him rich, but it's also helped open doors in the US for other Asian stars like **Jet Li** and **Chow Yun-fat**.

Blockbuster number three was DreamWorks.PDI's sassy animated feature, "Shrek," which appealed not just to children but to adults as well, because of its breezy and irreverent storytelling style. The movie is now the third most successful animated feature ever, and, in the long run, could even end up in the number two slot, behind "The Lion King."

Underscoring the renewed popularity of full-length cartoon features, the Disney studio has bounced back after the rout that was DreamWorks' "Shrek" by coming up with its yearender super-hit, "Monsters Inc."

After three weeks of release, Disney's newest animated feature has already earned more than $192M, so it's a no-brainer to "predict" that it'll break the $200-M mark before the year ends.

Last but certainly not least, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which has been breaking records with seeming impunity, caps the current film year with an unusually strong performance at the box office that is sure to top $200M any day now.

In fact, that figure bids fair to be just for starters, as there are veteran Hollywood observers who wager that "Harry Potter" could eventually hit $400M!

What do these five super-blockbusters have in common? All of them are lighthearted, whimsical, imaginative and inspiring. They tap into the child in every viewer, and into the film medium's innate ability to be magical.

Of course, many producers also want to mine that very profitable vein with their productions, but it isn't quite as simple as ordering "another 'Shrek'" or "something like 'Monsters, Inc.'!"

Those films have succeeded because their makers had a genuine love for fantasy and wonder, as well as the artistry and technology, to make their visions come alive amusingly and thrillingly on the big screen. Those gifts can't be bought, copied or faked, they have to be genuinely there for viewers to be captivated by them.

That's why there are so few mega-hits produced each year. The fact that their number is increasing does indicate that more filmmakers are getting the hang out of coming up with them, so that's good news for us moviegoers . . .

But what about local versions of these filmic marvels? Truth to tell, **Peque Gallaga** was making movies about boy wizards long before "Harry Potter," so we aren't exactly klutzes in that department.

The big difference is, Gallaga's movies didn't enjoy the massive carry-over audience resulting from "Harry Potter's" huge book sales—and the $120-M production budget that the Warner Bros. movie had.

With mega-bucks like that, just watch our best filmmakers weave their kind of movie magic!

Unknown is suddenly star of most expensive soap

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE FEMALE lead of GMA 7's new tele-novela, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," may not be a familiar face to many viewers, but **Tanya Garcia** has been in show biz for four years now, starting as a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 5.

ABS-CBN president **Freddie Garcia** gave Tanya her screen name and changed her last name from Lyttle to Garcia.

She has had a few TV appearances on ABS-CBN, playing younger sister to **Judy Ann Santos** in the soap "Esperanza," the best friend of **Jolina Magdangal** in "Labs Ko si Babe," and she was also in the cast of "G-mik." But Tanya was never really noticed. She became a talent of Viva Films and was cast in the weekly soap "Anna Karenina."

GMA 7 asked her to audition for "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," and Tanya apparently impressed the network's production bigwigs, who signed her up for the lead role opposite **Dingdong Dantes** in the new tele-novela.

Tanya, a great-granddaughter of the late **Carmen Rosales**, says of the career break: "I'm very grateful to GMA that they considered me for this project and for the trust they gave me.

"What I dreamed of before when I was still with ABS-CBN is happening now that I'm with GMA. I'm still overwhelmed."

In "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," she is supported by a powerhouse cast and directed by **Gil Tejada Jr.**

Is it true that some talents of GMA greeted her entry to the network with raised eyebrows?

"I'm really nervous," says Tanya, who is a third year mass communications major at Dominican College. "I'm the newest in the cast and as a lead star, I know they have come to expect a lot from me. I pray that I can deliver."

The youngest of four children, Tanya wanted to become a model when she was younger. "But I was growing old and I realized I was not getting any taller," she says. "I didn't have the height to become a model."

Also starring in the tele-novela are **Angelu de Leon** and **Bobby Andrews**, as well as **Tirso Cruz III, Elizabeth Oropesa, Chinggoy Alonso, Cheska Garcia, Nancy Catiglione, Lala Montelibano, Wendell Ramos** and **Kevin Vernal**.

Another pressure on Tanya are the fans of Dingdong Dantes and **Antoinette Taus**, who might accuse her of trying to break up the real and reel love team while Antoinette is temporarily based in the United States.

"But I'm ready for that," Tanya says. "The fans should be the first ones to realize this is just work for Dingdong and me."

"Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" is being touted as the most expensive tele-novela ever produced on TV. Aside from the powerhouse cast, it uses backdrops of mansions and blows up brand-new cars and a yacht, among other unlimited expenses.

It airs Mondays to Fridays, 7 p.m. on GMA.

GARCIA. Acting runs in the blood.

All good talents

RUFFA Gutierrez may be the one bankrolling the two-night dinner concert, "Sounds and Laughter," on Dec. 7 and 8 at Country Waffles in Greenhills, but it was her mom, **Annabelle Rama**, who chose the performers.

Mitch Valdez and **Jessa Zaragoza** topbill the Dec. 7 show, while **Dulce** and comedian **Allan K** share the stage on Dec. 8.

Special guests on both nights are **Jinky Llamanzares, Yam Ledesma, Selina Sevilla** and **Kristina Paner**. **Gerry Matias** is the musical director.

"Bilib ako sa lahat ng mga performers," Annabelle said. "They're all good. I watched Mitch at the Mandarin before and I immediately thought about her when we were planning this show.

"Dulce is a Cebuana like me and she's very talented. *Dapat bilib ako sa mga artista* so I can easily sell the show."

Her choice of Kristina Paner, however, appears to be controversial. Many people say Annabelle signed up the adopted daughter of **Daisy Romualdez** to spite her erstwhile friend, with whom she has a rift.

"Matagal na akong bilib kay Tina that's why I got her," Annabelle said. "She's good. It has nothing to do with my feud with Daisy."

PANER. Featured performer in the benefit dinner show, "Sounds and Laughter."

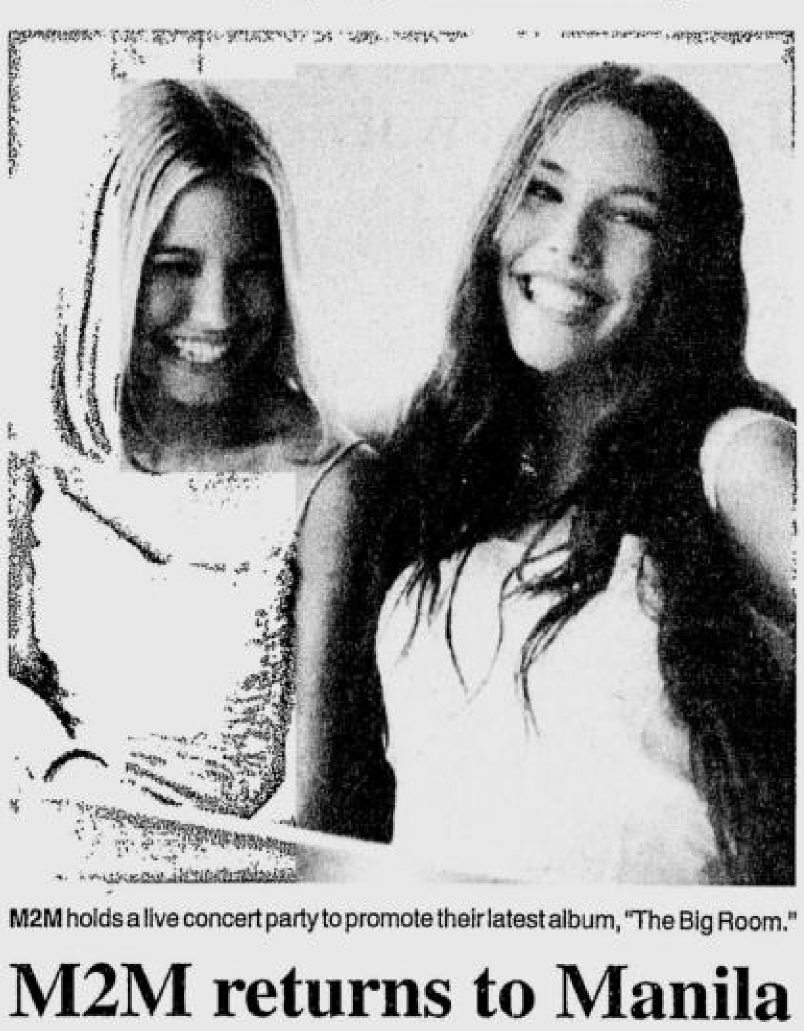
The dinner-concert follows the success of her first venture, a pre-Halloween dinner show, "The Way We Are," last October also at Country Waffles Greenhills.

Both concerts are mounted by the family-owned Royal Era Entertainment, which previously produced other events, telemovies and a full-length film.

"Sounds and Laughter" is for the benefit of the CMB Scholarship Foundation.

Ruffa arrived last week from Los Angeles, where she is based, to help promote the concert, which she will also host. Then she's off to Sydney with her Turkish boyfriend **Yilmaz Bektas**, who's fetching her late this week.

Yilmaz recently gifted Ruffa a new home in Istanbul. Yet, despite that, wedding bells are far from ringing, according to Ruffa.



M2M holds a live concert party to promote their latest album, "The Big Room."

M2M returns to Manila

MONTHS after they rocked SM Megamall and broke existing sales records, young pop superstars Marit Larsen and Marion Ravn, better known as M2M, return to Manila for a pre-holiday treat, Dec. 4-9.

Fresh from the success of their multi-platinum selling debut album, "Shades of Purple," which has sold 1.5 million copies worldwide, the duo is all set to unleash their second album, "The Big Room."

The new musical outing contains the latest airwave cruiser, "Everything," written by the girls themselves. The song carries the unique M2M appeal that has endeared them to their millions of fans who supported their first single, "Don't Say You Love Me."

"The Big Room" is made all the more delightful by M2M's harmonies and personal, poignant lyricism.

Experience the M2M power as the girls throw a big party to launch "The Big Room," featuring a live concert, freebies and a lot more on Dec. 7, 7 p.m. at the Hall A of the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard corner Buendia, Pasay City.

Titled "The Big Room, Big Party," the event gives way free tickets for every CD or cassette tape purchase of "The Big Room."

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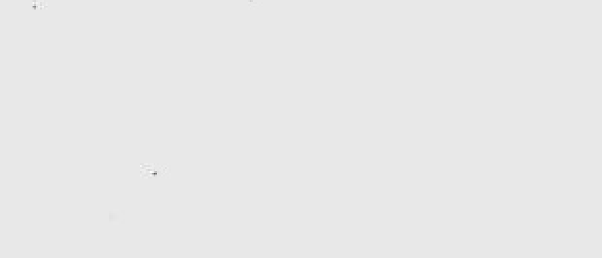

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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	TIKIM
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC
9	WEYT A MINIT
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?
11	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
12	SERENDIPITY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC.
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	SERENDIPITY
7	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
8	HARRY POTTER
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	TIKIM

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820985

1	MASAKIT, HUWAG IPILIT
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	MUSKETEER

SM CEBU 2313816

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	GLITTER
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	WEYT A MINIT
7	MONSTERS, INC.

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	KING OF GLADIATOR
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	KAPITAN AMBO
6	MONSTERS, INC.
7	CLOSED
8	BUBBLE BOY

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	HARRY POTTER
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM SUCAT 8294015

1	ROCKSTAR
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MUSKETEER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM DAVAO

1	13 DAYS
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	KING OF GLADIATOR
4	HARRY POTTER
5	MONSTERS, INC
6	BUBBLE BOY

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	THE MUSKETEER	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	HARRY POTTER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE IRON LADIES	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	ROCKSTAR	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE MUSKETEER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE SCORE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	ROCKSTAR THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SERENDIPITY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	MONSTERS, INC.	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	HARRY POTTER	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	DREAM GIRL	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	ROCKSTAR	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	HARRY POTTER	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ROCKSTAR	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	REGINE AT THE MOVIES DEC. 7, 8, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	HARRY POTTER THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ROCKSTAR	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE SCORE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE MUSKETEER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	MONSTERS, INC.	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DREAM GIRL
2 (SDDS)	MONSTER, INC.
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4 GOLD (DTS)	ROCKSTAR
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE SCORE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MUSKETEER
8	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
9	IRON LADIES
10	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	TIKIM
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	IRON LADIES
3	MUSKETEER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
5	TIKIM

METROPOLIS star 543.3927 loc. 150

1	IRON LADIES
2	
3	ROCKSTAR
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	TIKIM
6	MUSKETEER
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	ROCKSTAR

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DUGONG ASO
2	HARRY POTTER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TIKIM
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8508

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	
3	
4	MUSKETEER
5	DREAM GIRL
6	IRON LADIES
7 (DTS)	ROCKSTAR
8 (SDDS)	THE SCORE
9 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	DREAM GIRL
3	IRON LADIES
4 (SDDS)	THE SCORE
5	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	TIKIM
9	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE SCORE
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
5 (SDDS)	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	IRON LADIES

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	DREAM GIRL
5 (SDDS)	THE SCORE

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK

Sampaquita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	OBSESSION
Lords	SEDUCE
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
2	OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
3	OPENS DEC 25. 2001

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	TIKIM

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	TIKIM

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Berma tel 879.2029

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	ROCKSTAR

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	THE SCORE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAWE
2 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	THE SCORE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DOLBY)	THE SCORE
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown (Tarlac)

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4 (DTS)	SERENDIPITY

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MUSKETEER
2	TIKIM
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4 (DTS)	IRON LADIES

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	THE SCORE
4	TIKIM
5	JEEEPERS CREEPERS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM
3	THE SCORE

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

1	THE SCORE
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	THE SCORE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TIKIM
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HARRY POTTER

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THE ONE
2	SERENDIPITY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	JEEPERS CREEPERS

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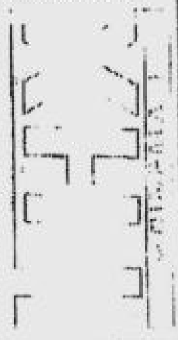

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	ROCKSTAR
5	DREAMGIRL
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
8	MUSKETEER
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	IRON LADIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	ROCKSTAR
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC.
4	THE SCORE
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	DREAM GIRL
7	MUSKETEER

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	IRON LADIES
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	ROCKSTAR
8	DREAM GIRL

NOVALICHES 936-3229 to 31

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	THE SCORE
4	THE SCORE
5	ROCKSTAR
6	MUSKETEER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.

IMUS (046) 471-6199

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE SCORE
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	MUSKETEER
5	ROCKSTAR
6	DREAM GIRL

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE ONE
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	WEYT A MINIT

ILOILO (033) 336-6077 / 6078

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	KAPITAN AMBO
5	HARRY POTTER
6	DON'T SAY A WORD

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IRON LADIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	UNFAITHFUL WIFE / SEX MEDUSA
ODEON	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ODEON-2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Sabor Latino at Savannah Moon

SABOR Latino pumps up Savannah Moon's dance floor starting at 8 tonight.

The band offers live entertainment for those who want to unwind and groove on a midweek night.

Sabor Latino is known for playing the best in Latin sound, popularized by artists such as Gloria Estefan, Jennifer Lopez and Ricky Martin.

The band's performance is part of Savannah Moon's "Midweek Party Night" series which kicked off last month.

Savannah Moon is located at 2/F Korby 1 Bldg., Libis, Quezon City.

Christmas album

ASIATEC Music's "Uptown Girl/Angel Christmas" medley album featuring well-loved Yuletide tunes, is distributed by D'Concorde Recording Corporation.

The first part contains Christmas carols like "White Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Silver Bells," "Rudolph the Red-Nose Raindeer," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Frosty the Snowman."

The second part of the album features "Little Drummer Boy," "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "Feliz Navidad," "Happy Christmas (The War is Over)," "Mama Cita," "You're All I Want For Christmas" and "Merry Christmas, Darling."

For special orders, call 416-2141.

Dance showdown

THE ASIA-WIDE Big 4 dance showdown reaches its peak when it holds its grand finals on Saturday, Dec. 8 in the top-rating noontime show, "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

The competition, now on its fourth year, is inspired by a special compilation album of the best dance tracks.

The contest is staged by MCA Universal, with SM Supermall, SM Department Store and Banco de Oro.

The dance showdown was launched two months ago at SM Supermalls. Two groups of winners were picked in each mall to compete in the semi-finals on "Eat Bulaga" last month.

The winner in the grand finals will compete with delegates from other Asian countries like Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Big 4 dance album contains remixes of favorite dance hits like Sisqo's "Dance for Me," U2's "Elevation," Cerrone's "Give Me Love," Vanessa Amorosi's "Absolutely Everybody," S Club 7's "Reach," Samantha Mumba's "Always Come Back To Your Love," Shaft's "Kikki Rirri Boom," A Teens' "Upside Down."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DREAM GIRL - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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DISNEY · PIXAR
MONSTERS, INC.

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS DECEMBER 12 !
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ARE YOU GAME?
SUMMER CATCH
www.summercatch.com America Online Keyword: Summer Catch
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

THE CAST of "Lizzie McGuire."

Disney Channel airs comedy series

FROM the producer of the sitcom "Boy Meets World" comes the original comedy series, "Lizzie McGuire" on the Disney Channel.

Aired every Friday on the "Disney Buzz" at 5 p.m., "Lizzie McGuire" mixes live action animation.

The show revolves around 13-year-old Lizzie McGuire (Hillary Duff) and her brassy animated counterpart.

In Lizzie's world, every day is a popularity contest, every school class is a crisis and every situation is filled with conflict. And Lizzie is trying to survive all these with her dignity intact.

She may receive advice from her well-meaning parents, but it's Lizzie's two best friends spitfire Miranda and smart guy Gordo—who stick by her no matter what happens.

Her animated self is also never far away to give unrestrained and often hysterical commentaries, as Lizzie charts a course through an awesome and awkward adolescence.

Disney Channel Asia is a multi-territory feed that covers several Asean and South Asian countries.

At present, the Disney Channel Asia is seen in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei.

The Channel brings quality programming designed to provide a positive and entertaining environment for the whole family.

The Disney Channel has three distinct zones Playhouse for pre-schoolers, Kid's Zone for older kids and the Family Zone, all of which are specifically designed to reach out and interact with the audience present at that time.

Broadcasting 24 hours, 7 days a week, the Disney Channel also features a wide array of animation series, sitcoms, dramas and animation/live action features, as well as locally produced programming.

Walt Disney Television International (Asia Pacific) is responsible for the consolidated international free and pay TV activities of the Walt Disney Company and ABC Inc. in the region.

Benefit concert 'Season's Best'

LANI Misalucha, Robert Sena, Nolyn Cabahug, Carol Banawa, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Playshop Kids and Verni Varga topbill the benefit dinner-show, "The Season's Best," Dec. 9, 8 p.m. at the Manila Hotel.

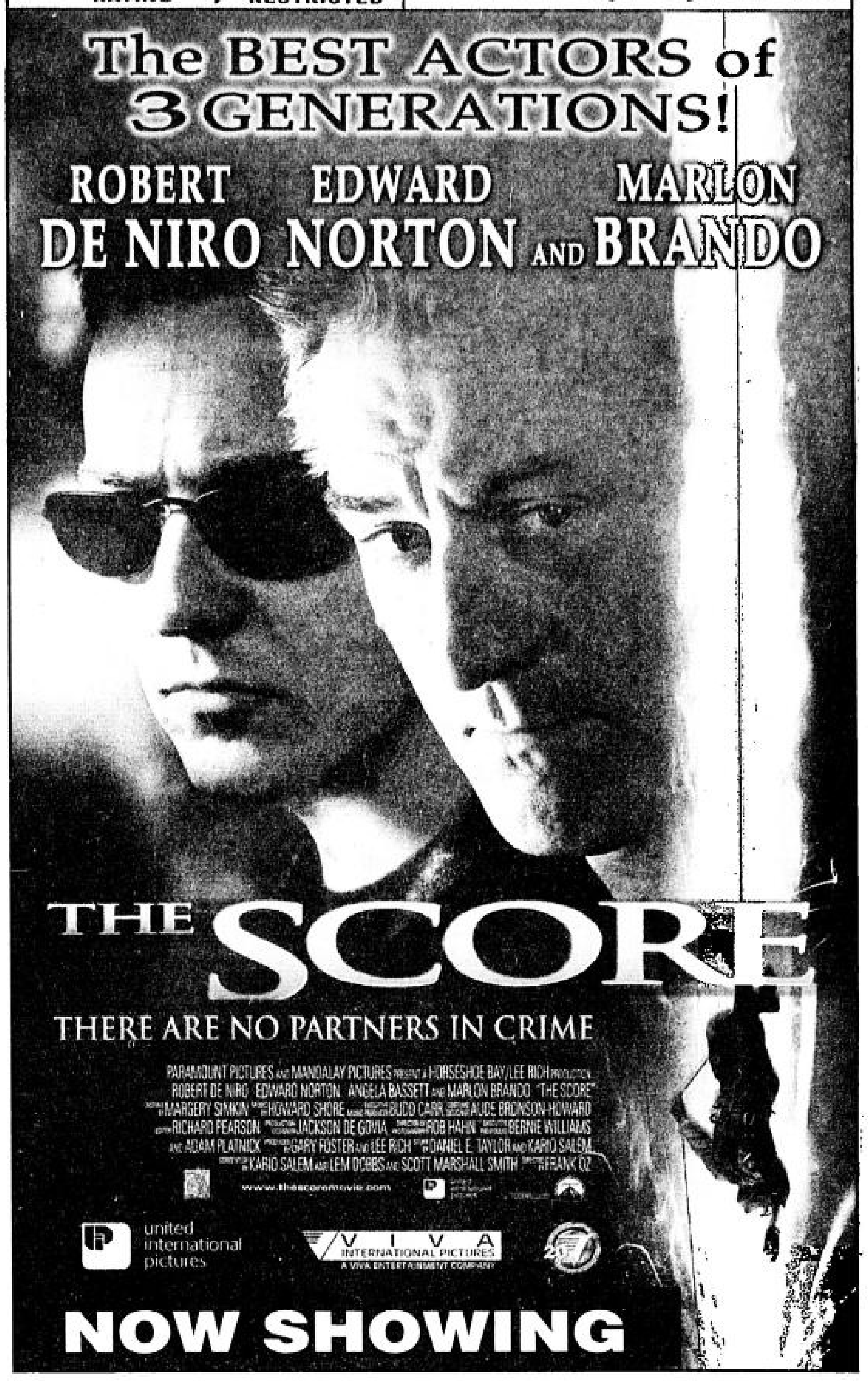
A presentation of the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and PhilExport, with The Manila Hotel and Toyota, "The Season's Best" is a benefit for the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Scholarship Fund, which aims to send poor but deserving students to college.

The concert will be directed by Kokoy Jimenez, with Gerard Salonga as musical director. Dinner is at 7 p.m.

The artists, who will lend their talents to help disadvantaged students get an education, will sing mostly inspirational songs in keeping with the concert's objective.

For tickets, call the foundation secretariat at 894-4774 and 810-9652 or The Manila Hotel at 527-0011.

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


The BEST ACTORS of 3 GENERATIONS!
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EDWARD NORTON
AND
MARLON BRANDO
THE SCORE
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PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND MANDALAY PICTURES PRESENT A HORSESHOE BAY/LEE RICH PRODUCTION
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RICHARD PEARSON JACKSON DE GOVIA ROB HAHN BERNIE WILLIAMS
ADAM PLATNICK GARY FOSTER AND LEE RICH DANIEL E. TAYLOR AND KARIO SALEM
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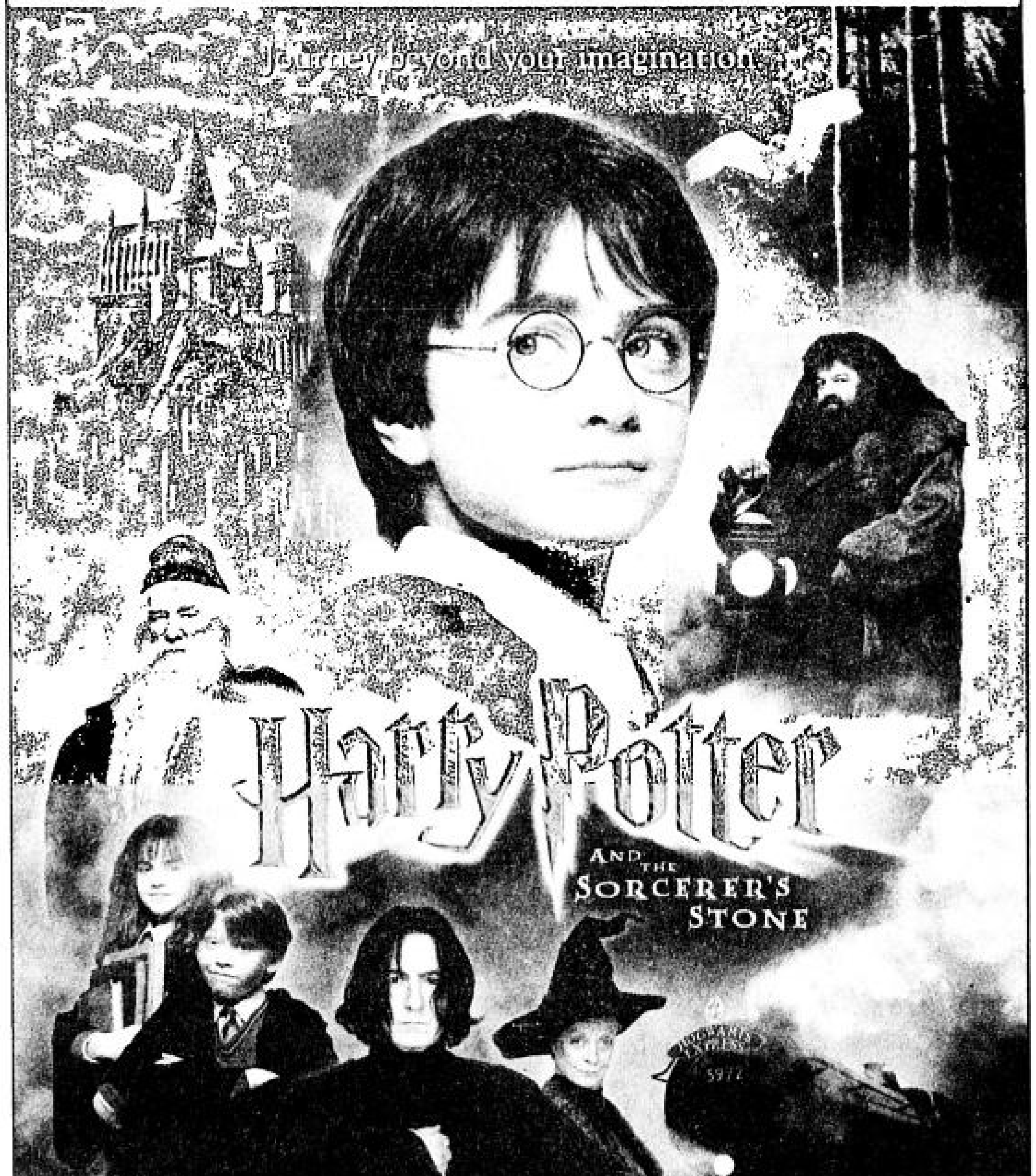
Journey beyond your imagination
Harry Potter
AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
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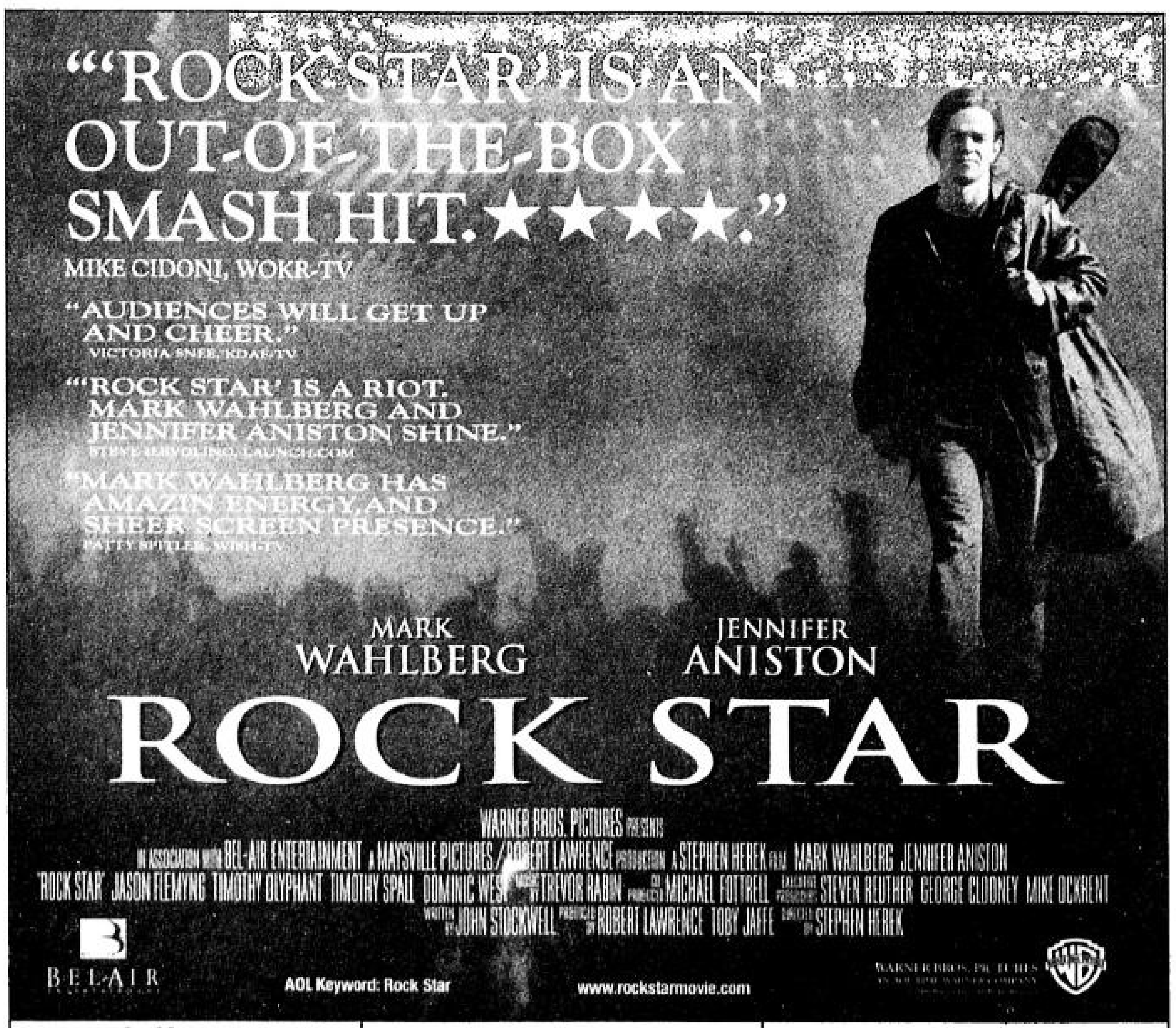
CINE MANILA
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
7-16 December
Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt Cinemas
Ayala Center, Makati City
For more details, pls call CineManila Secretariat at 881 678 or log on to www.cinemanila.com.ph


"'ROCK STAR' IS AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX SMASH HIT.★★★★."
MIKE CIDONI, WOKR-TV
"AUDIENCES WILL GET UP AND CHEER."
VICTORIA SNEE, KDAF-TV
"'ROCK STAR' IS A RIOT. MARK WAHLBERG AND JENNIFER ANISTON SHINE."
"MARK WAHLBERG HAS AMAZIN ENERGY AND SHEER SCREEN PRESENCE."
PATTY SPITLER, WISH-TV
MARK WAHLBERG
JENNIFER ANISTON
ROCK STAR
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Export slump eases to 13.5% in October

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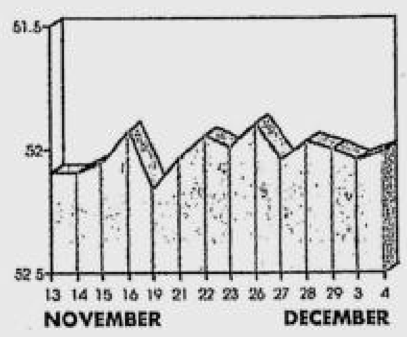

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

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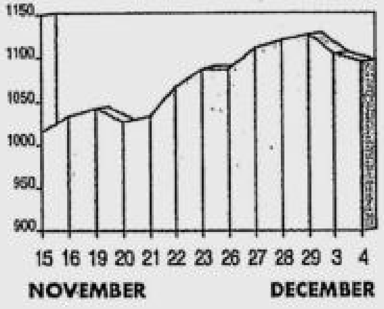
STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks down

SHARES ended lower for a second consecutive day yesterday as the recent pattern of taking profits after two to three days of gains continued, traders said.

The main index shed more than 2 percent on Monday, after a three-day rally.

"It was just profit-taking again . . . our market has proven that sometimes it does not pay to hold on (to gains) too long," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said, adding the index had "made a good enough leap," recently from

STOCKS/ B2

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE DECLINE in exports eased in October despite uncertainties over the economic impact of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, and analysts were cautiously optimistic the worst of the downturn was over.

The National Statistics Office announced yesterday that exports reached $2.939 billion in October, down 13.5 percent from $3.398 billion in the same month last year.

The decline was the smallest since May, when exports fell by 11.4 percent.

In the first 10 months of the year, exports fell to $26.873 billion, down 14 percent from $31.265 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Officials have forecast a contraction in exports of as much as 15 percent for the whole of 2001 over last year due to the slowdown in the United States and Japan, the largest markets for Philippine products.

The United States and Japan were still the country's top export destinations with a share of 27 percent and 14.2 percent. Purchases made by the two countries, both hounded by an economic recession, went down by 20.6 percent and 21.2 percent.

The Philippines has also been affected by the global slump in demand for semiconductors and electronic components, the country's main exports.

Electronics components, accounting for a little over half of the total export revenue, declined by 26 percent in October to $1.515 billion from $2.048 billion in October last year. The fall was also the smallest since May 2001 when it posted a drop of 21.8 percent on the year.

While the apparent halt in export decline was encouraging, economists pointed out domestic demand was now the main driver for the Philippine economy.

"I think you do have to keep that in mind that exports are important, but they are not the only engine for growth in those countries which can spur domestic demand," said Graham Parry, an economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

"They are the ones weathering the storm the best in Asia and the Philippines looks like it has been able to do that."

The Philippine economy grew by a slightly better than forecast 2.9 percent in the third quarter, backed by strong domestic consumption growth and good farm sector growth.

The government has said it was on track to meet a full-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth target of 3.3.percent.

Parry said there were some indi-

EXPORT/ B2

PSE governors elect Leung as president

HE ACCEPTED the challenge of the Philippine Stock Exchange presidency because he believed in the significance of the securities market as an alternative way of mobilizing resources for Philippine entrepreneurs.

LEUNG

Thus said former finance secretary and Development Bank of the Philippines chair Ernest Leung, who was yesterday unanimously elected by the 15-member PSE board to replace Ramon T. Garcia as PSE president.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Leung said he was honored to serve an "institution of such long history" and noted that this would be an opportunity to do something in line with what he believed in.

"Having looked at the Philippines from the financial market's point of view, the securities market, being a sub-sector, has a crucial role to play in the Philippine economy moving forward," Leung said. "Entrepreneurs can't rely on bank debt alone to raise funds."

In a press briefing yesterday, PSE corporate secretary Edgardo Guevarra announced that the board had picked a "highly qualified" person to serve the unexpired term of Garcia until March this year, thus avoiding a confrontation with the Securities and Exchange Commission which had long been putting pressure on the PSE to pick a new president.

"I think he's a good administrator, a very straightforward person. I think he will be good for the exchange," Guevarra said.

Another candidate considered by the PSE for the post, Institute of Corporate Directors CEO Jesus Estanislao, also a former finance secretary, has himself endorsed Leung. He said he was willing to consider the position if only the PSE could not find anyone else suitable to take the position.

Guevarra said Leung would assume office as soon as he has formally accepted the position.

For his part, Leung said he preferred to start office in January and use the remainder of the year to

PSE/ B9

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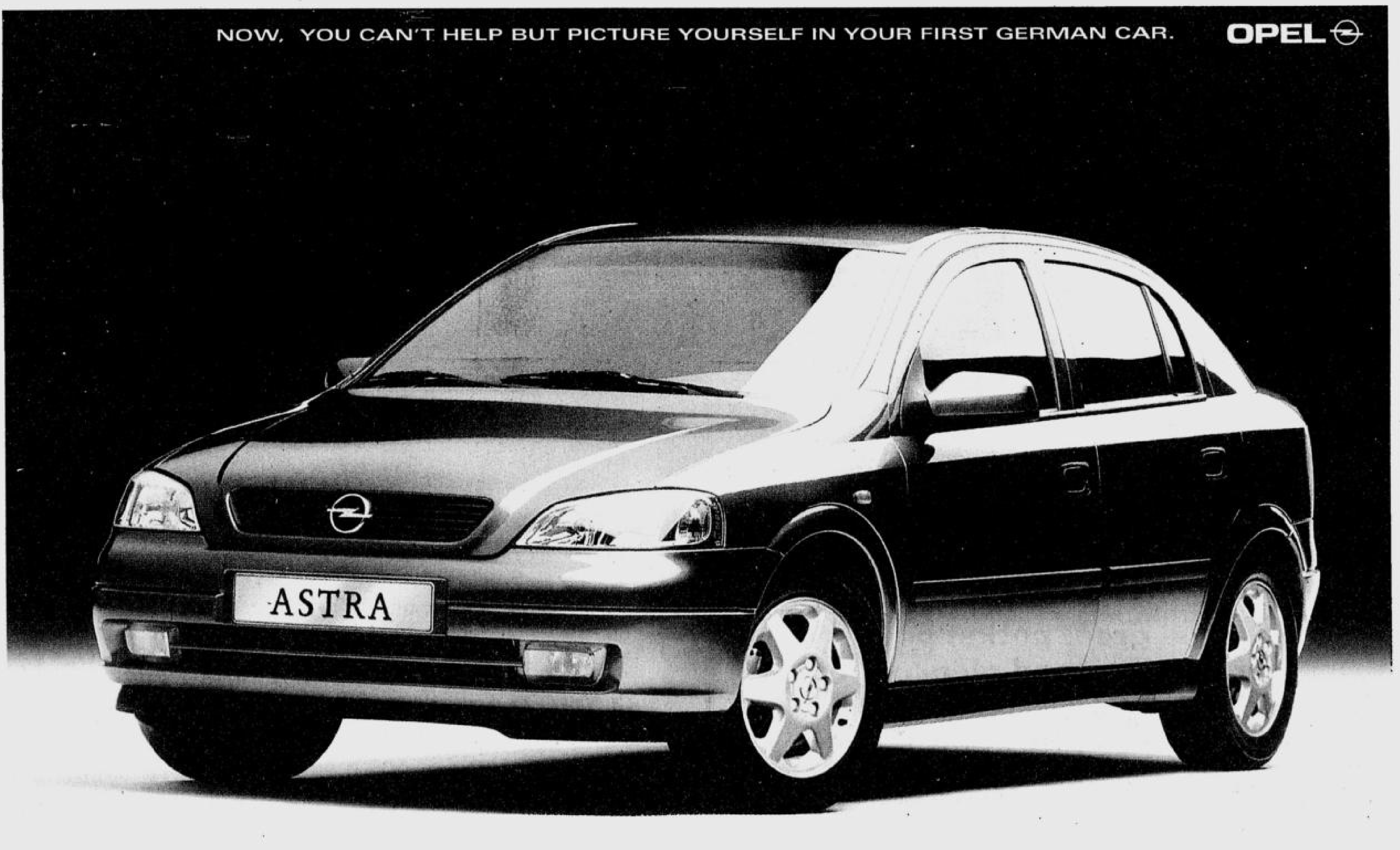

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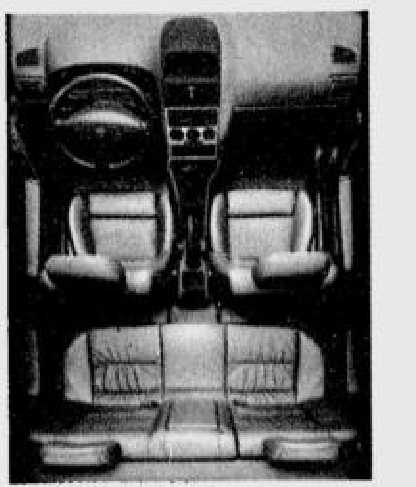
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BIR sticks to P447-B revenue target for 2002

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it was confident it could meet its P388-billion revenue target this year and could deliver at least P447 billion in collection next year if the economy would grow at an estimated pace of 4 to 4.5 percent.

The Bureau of Customs, for its part, said it would ask the economic team to cut its P115-billion target next year by at least P10 billion to P105 billion, the same level of programmed collection this year.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said the internal revenue agency was confident it could hit its P388-billion target this year, down from an original program of P408 billion.

"I think our full-year target is achievable because we expect additional revenue from our voluntary assessment program as well as intensified audit," he said.

Bañez said the BIR was expected to collect an additional P2 billion from the voluntary assessment program and P3 billion from the intensified audit.

He said the bureau has yet to decide whether or not it would request to reduce its target anew for next week. "The P447-billion target is a collective decision. I cannot unilaterally ask for a revision for as long as the gross domestic product would grow by 4 to 4.5 percent," the BIR chief said.

The economic team has already downscaled its GDP growth target next year from an earlier range of 4.3 to 4.8 percent.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said in an interview that he would request for a reduction in next year's target in light of declining imports due to a global recession.

"The volume of imports have gone down and our collection depends heavily on importation. We hope that our target for next year would be the same as this year's P105 billion," Villanueva said.

The customs chief added that this year, the bureau had maintained its target despite a P20-billion reduction in the programmed collection of the BIR.

He also pointed out that the Customs had not been remiss in its collections this year, as opposed to a data presented by the Bureau of Treasury that the BOC had incurred a collection shortfall of P2.933 billion in the first 10 months of the year, P934 million of which was in October alone.

Villanueva said the perceived shortfall in collection was actually the import tariffs that government agencies and corporations have not paid the BOC since the budget department refuses to disburse funds to pay obligations owed to another state entity.

As of October, the customs chief noted that the bureau had collected P86.479 billion, which was P1.121 billion or 1.3 percent higher than the cash collection target of P85.358 billion.

He said compared to last year, this was P8.597 billion or 11 percent higher compared to a collection of P77.882 billion.

Villanueva said that based on performance targets, the BOC should raise P85.35 billion but had only collected P80.203 billion. He said the perceived shortfall would be covered if the budget department would release money for state agencies to pay their import tariff.

3 investment banks offer to handle Napocor bond float

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez said last Monday three investment banks have offered to underwrite a bond flotation of as much as $500 million that would cover half of National Power Corp.'s financial needs for 2002.

Perez said there was one that offered to handle the issuance of $300 million while there was also "a couple of offers for half a billion."

"I can't name (the investment banks), but they are the 'usual suspects'," the secretary said.

Perez noted that Napocor needed $1 billion for next year and that this would be raised partly through the proceeds of National Transmission Corp.'s privatization.

"If we have (very good) sale proceeds, then we would not even need to go to the market anymore. But even if we do, I think the market is open-banked to the Philippines again," he said.

He added that the offers were made "immediately" after the recent issuance of 500 million euros for the state power firm's financial needs for the remainder of 2001

"But we decided to just take it easy and perhaps wait for the market to improve even further in our favor," Perez said.

He said that if ever, it would be the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) that would float the bond next year and that it would have a government guarantee.

Created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, PSALM would assume all of Napocor's financial obligations as of end-2000 and take over all of its disposable assets.

Last week, PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said Napocor's financial needs for 2001 was as good as covered with the issuance of the 500-milion eurobonds.

The power firm needs $530 million for this year but Del Fonso said the balance may be secured through short-term bridge-financing from local banks.

"Securing the balance would not be so difficult because we still have open credit lines with local banks," Del Fonso explained.

Also, Perez noted that the eurobond flotation indicated the great interest of the market in investing in the Philippines.

"The book-building exercise grew from 250 million euros to 800 million euros. This is the first public bond offering of the (Macapagal) administration and the oversubscription is a very positive sign of what the market feels," he said.

He added that the 5-year eurobond was syndicated by Deutsche Bank, Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg.

Export ... (From page B1)

cations the cyclical downturn in the electronics industry may be ending soon, but also warned any pick up in demand in the United States would be a couple of quarters away.

"I don't think there are any prospects of a sharp pick up in external demand, but we have probably seen the worst of things (on the export front for the Philippines). We'll probably stay weak for a while a little longer, then improve slowly."

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said the slower contraction of exports in October was a welcome relief. She said she was expecting the decline to have worsened to 32 percent for the month in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States. *With a report from Reuters*

Stocks ... (From page B1)

around 980 to 1,128 points.

United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said she expected investors to continue to cash in through to the end of the week in the absence of any significant positive developments.

"I think we still have some ground to make up in terms of stocks coming down from overbought territory," she said.

Roxas said he expected the current correction to be finished by today.

The index closed down 8.51 points, or 0.77 percent, at 1,096.55 points. *Reuters*

CURRENCIES

Dec. 04, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.121453	1.000000	52.0280
Japan	Yen	0.009036	0.008057	0.4192
United Kingdom	Pound	1.598183	1.425100	74.1451
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143802	0.128228	6.6714
Switzerland	Franc	0.677902	0.604485	31.4501
Canada	Dollar	0.711357	0.634317	33.0022
Singapore	Dollar	0.610813	0.544662	28.3377
Australia	Dollar	0.581034	0.518108	26.9561
Bahrain	Dinar	2.974836	2.652661	138.0126
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299055	0.266667	13.8742
Brunei	Dollar	0.609154	0.543183	28.2607
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025511	0.022748	1.1835
UAE	Dirham	0.305407	0.272331	14.1688
Korea	Won	0.000885	0.000789	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891700	46.3934
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455919	23.7206
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135939	7.0726
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.404636	21.0524
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064802	3.3715
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022105	1.1501
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000461	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149973	7.8028
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004448	0.2314
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005359	0.2788
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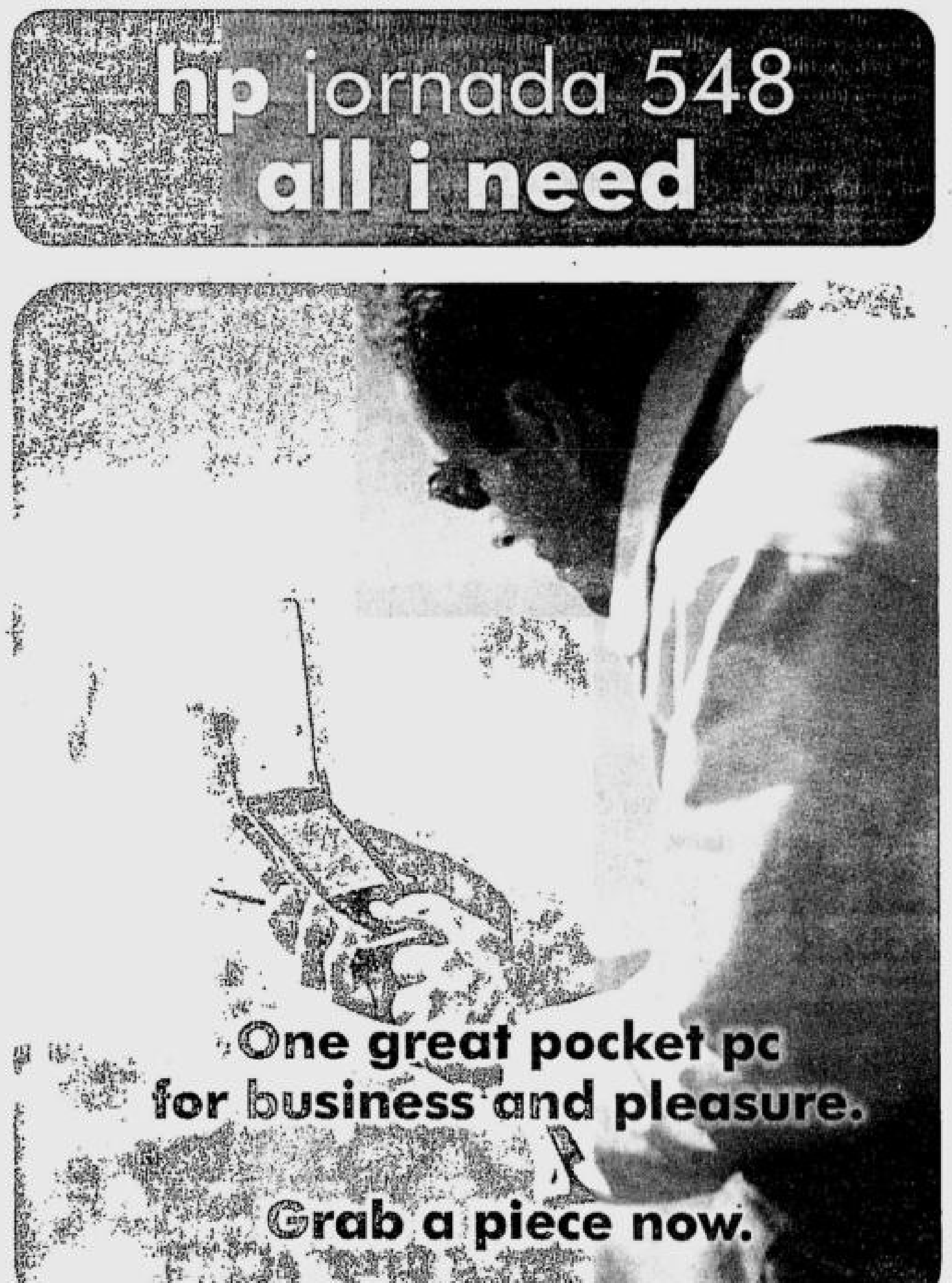

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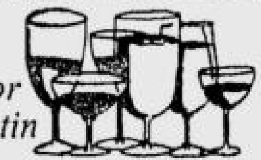

By Victor C. Agustin

THERE is nothing unusual about a bank maintaining two sets of interest rate computations for a client's loan—one "actual" but lower figure and one higher level "disclosed" to and must be paid by the client—such a practice being "universal" and actually allowed by the Bangko Sentral, according to United Coconut Planters Bank.

The higher "disclosed" figure, such as the alleged P120-million net overbilling claimed by client, real estate developer E. Ganzon Inc., consists of yet-to-be realized interest income computed from the day a client like EGI defaults on the loan, Cocobank said.

Because of the alleged overbilling, EGI, as reported in this column Friday, is suing Cocobank chair Jeronimo Kilayko, president Lorenzo Tan, and other top bank officials for fraud and other deceits after EGI obtained an internal bank memo showing that the proposed *dacion en pago* settlement for the EGI loan had "two sets of computation, specifically, the actual amount and the disclosed amount."

The lower actual amount, in this case P2.4 million, as against the gross P150 million disclosed and being collected from EGI, represented the accrued interest receivable before EGI's loan turned past due.

"The banks' computers are programmed to stop computing interest on loans once these become past due," Cocobank said in a statement.

"This is lower than EGI's actual total interest obligations (of P150 million) because BSP Circular 202 prohibits banks from continuing to record on their books the accrual of interests on loans when collection of payments becomes doubtful as this would result in overstating the banks' financial statements."

Despite the inability of the borrower to repay the loan, Cocobank continued to compute interest plus penalty/other charges, the second set of computation, "because we continue to pay interest on the funds that we (had) lent to EGI," the bank said.

"If this is not done, then borrowers can simply let their loans turn past due to forego interest payments."

The P150-million interest rate differential represents the accrued interest rate payments from the time EGI defaulted on the loan up to the time of the signing of the foreclosure papers, Cocobank said.

The amount does not include the P20.6 million in penalties that Cocobank had waived, as well as the interest charges for "several months" in between the signing of the foreclosure papers and the actual foreclosure.

According to the grapevine, in addition to the criminal complaint now being heard by Assistant Makati Prosecutor Josefa Laurente, EGI is elevating the issue to the Monetary Board, the Bangko Sentral's policy-making body.

Marcelo's partner

THE DUAL-PASSPORT trick employed by the opposition battering ram, Pacifico Marcelo III, is neither original nor patented.

Marcelo's fellow director at the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner, is still hanging on to her Filipino passport and her maiden name despite her having married an American and having obtained US citizenship decades ago.

This irregularity was confirmed after the mother of Ilusorio-Bildner failed to travel to New York late last month because her daughter, who shares the same name as her mother, appropriated for herself the electronic Northwest Airlines ticket bought by the mother.

The local Northwest Airlines confirmed the "misuse" to the 81-year-old mother, Erlinda K. Ilusorio, after the dismayed matriarch inquired about the loss of her ticket.

Ilusorio-Bildner, 57, who is married to an 86-year-old Jewish multimillionaire, is set to return today from New York to confer with her Erap-appointed allies in the Philcomsat board amid a Malacañang announcement to revamp the sequestered firm.

Guess what airline she is taking?

Heard through the grapevine

THE PRESIDENCY of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which will now go to former Finance Secretary Ernest Leung, pays P550,000/month, as against the P35,000 or so that the technocrat received when he was holding fort at the finance department during the Ramos years.

Leung, who has a track record of butting heads even with his principals, is the personal choice of PSE chair Felipe Yap.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

BONIFACIO STAKE

Ayala, BLC talks deadlocked

By Elena R. Torrijos

HOPING to get a better price for its nearly 70-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., Metro Pacific Corp. made a counter proposal to Ayala Land Inc., but the latter found it "unacceptable," a source familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER.

The source noted that the deadlock would be broken and negotiations would resume only if both sides decided they needed the deal enough to work on a compromise.

ALI submitted last month a binding offer to acquire MPC's 70-percent stake in BLC, which in turn owns a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. A joint venture with state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority, FBDC is overseeing the development of 150 hectares of the former military camp straddling Makati and Taguig.

ALI has reportedly improved its original binding offer, which, according to another source, amounted to P500 million in cash plus the property developer's interest in Metro Rail Transit Corp.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that the Ayala-controlled property firm would take in real estate developer Carlos Rufino and a foreign fund as partners for the acquisition and that Robinsons Land Corp., the real estate arm of the Gokongwei family, submitted an expression of interest for the BLC stake.

Recently, MPC chair Manuel Pangilinan confirmed that MPC president Ricardo Pascua had gone on indefinite leave in order to organize a management buyout and that the company was amenable to such an effort.

The Salim family of Indonesia, which controls MPC's parent, First Pacific Co., has given the go-ahead for the disposal of the Fort Bonifacio project. Saddled with about P18 billion in debts partly maturing early next year and with no sign of the property market's recovery in the next two years at least, MPC has decided to dispose of its BLC stake even at a loss, industry sources said.

The urgency to sell its equity in BLC, however, has abated following First Pacific's sale of Berli Jucker in Thailand and the sale of other assets.

Once it unloads its stake in Fort Bonifacio, MPC will have only First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific and high-rise developer Pacific Plaza Tower in its books.

ING Barings, MPC's financial adviser on the disposal of the BLC stake, had invited about a dozen groups to bid but only a few submitted offers and only ALI itself disclosed it made a firm proposal.

ALI was MPC's stiffest rival when the BCDA bid out the development rights to the Fort Bonifacio property in 1995. ALI lost out with a bid of roughly P24,000 per sq. m. against the MPC consortium's bid of P33,000 per sq. m.

Earlier, MPC rejected ALI's bid of P11,800 per sq. m. for the development rights to an 18.9-hectare portion of the Global City located in the Northern central business district

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BOI endorses bill on guarantee firm

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has endorsed a congressional bill creating a P50-billion guarantee corporation that will back up bank loans for critical agriculture development projects in the country.

In a memorandum, the BOI said the proposed Agricultural Guaranty Corp. (AGC) would fill in the huge financing gap needed to bankroll the modernization of the agriculture sector and help farmers improve their competitiveness in the face of tougher competition in a more liberalized economy. It said agriculture remains an integral part of the economy accounting for 25 percent of the economy and 40 percent of the total workforce in the country.

The BOI cited the perennial drought in funding for agriculture projects because banks and government financial institutions consider them as high-risk ventures subject to the capriciousness of nature and the poor state of farm-to-market roads. The BOI noted that even with the mandatory allocation of a quarter of a bank's loan funds to the agriculture sector, only a few farmers could get bank loans.

The BOI said the AGC would unlock private funds to the agriculture sector by providing guarantees on the loans much like the role of Philguarantee (renamed Tidcorp) in the industrial sector. The AGC will have a broader scope than the Quedancorp (the traditional financing scheme for crop production projects) by including fisheries and agribusiness ventures.

Based on the bill filed by Isabela Rep. Edwin C. Uy, the AGC will have a capital base of P50 billion with the initial P7.5 billion chipped in by the government. The succeeding capital infusion will be taken from the annual fiscal budget. The company will apply for public listing.

The guarantee fund will be divided based on farm size: 40 percent will go to farmers, cooperatives and other entities with farms less than 10 hectares; 30 percent for farmers and cooperatives with farms of up to 30 ha; 20 percent for farms of up to 50 ha, and less than 10 percent for agri-industrial firms.

The board of directors will have 11 members including the secretaries of finance, agriculture and economic planning, seven appointees by the President, and the nominated president of the company. The BOI suggested that the trade and industry secretary be included on the board.

The bill said state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System shall invest in the AGC.

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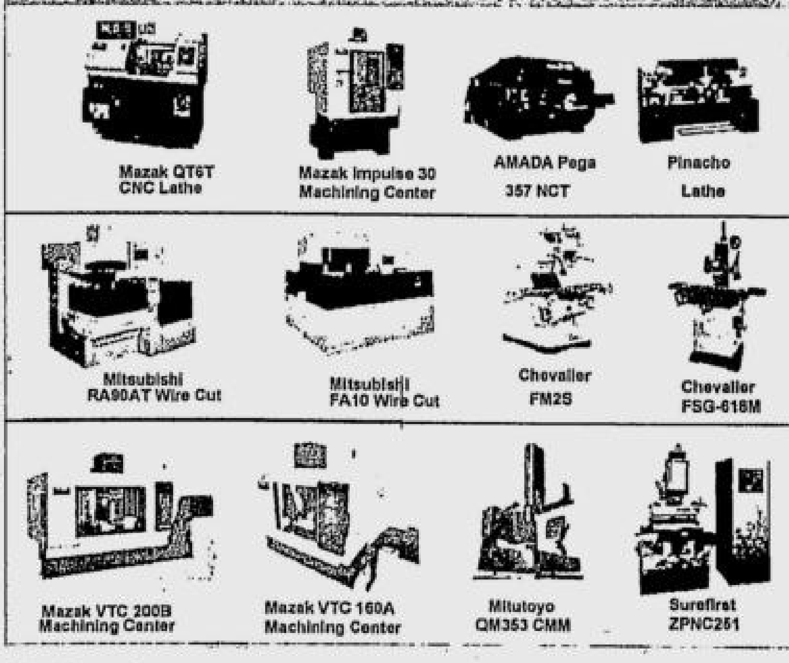

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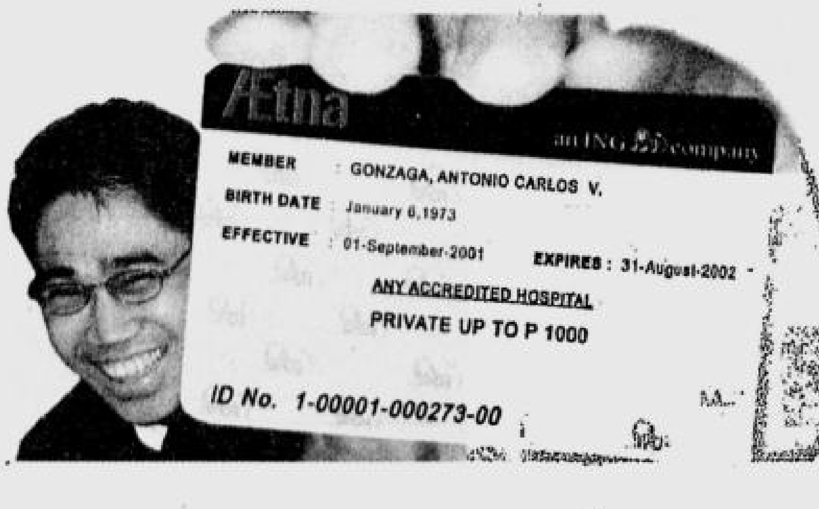

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BIRTH DATE : January 6,1973
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, December 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	50.5	51	580,200
China Banking Corp.	520	520	520	520	790
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.75	23	22.25	22.25	135,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	9,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	176	177	174	174	17,080
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	112,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	123,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	239	239	239	239	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1355	1355	1355	1355	210
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1150	1140	1150	1,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	14,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.4	3,060,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	580	570	580	5,320
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	10,000
Piltel	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	250,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	405	407.5	405	407.5	63,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.69	1,100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.02	89,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	49,800
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	28.5	29	967,600
Petron Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	5,693,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.9	0.84	0.9	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.6	1.72	1.6	1.68	4,864,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	424,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	158,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	24	23.75	24	24,200
RFM Corp.	2.18	2.32	2.18	2.24	4,001,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	41	41.5	31,700
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	50.5	51	144,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	3,924,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	640,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	309,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	630,000
BHI Holdings Inc.	340	340	340	340	510
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.76	0.71	0.73	5,930,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.18	0.145	0.18	3,320,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.2	1,660,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.025	0.021	0.025	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	172,400
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	3,830,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	312,000
Medco Holdings	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	480,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.37	7,120,000
Music Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.42	0.44	16,660,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.38	2,610,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.21	0.18	0.19	7,980,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.26	0.29	380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.4	5	4.4	5	23,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.81	0.78	0.78	610,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,180,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24	24	5,722,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	309,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	560	560	560	560	1,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.1	4.7	4.1	4.7	482,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	80,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	685,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	2,070,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	2,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.6	4,579,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	620,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	1,404,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.023	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	700,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	50,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	800,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.005	262,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	146,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	7,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.23	2,530,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,040,710	45,009,425.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	566,686,770	292,293,780.00
PRO	13,458,000	21,780,750.00
Mining	33,930,000	452,550.00
OIL	429,360,000	2,736,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,044,677,480	362,273,405.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	436.20	DOWN 3.70
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,534.48	DOWN 12.55
PRO	486.24	UP 0.07
Mining	1,005.07	DOWN 4.19
OIL	1.76	UP 0.33
All Shares Index	695.52	DOWN 12.85
Composite	1,096.55	DOWN 8.51

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 95; NO. OF TRADES: 2,501

DISCLOSURES

MUSIC Corp. announced the resignation of Ceferino Follosco as director of the company.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. clarified that it was the SM Group's retail subsidiaries, not SM Prime Holdings, that were holding joint venture talks with **Hutchison Whampoa Ltd.'s** subsidiary **Watson Personal Care Stores.**

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. denied it was interested in acquiring **All Asia Life Assurance Corp.**

* * *

THE SALE last March of **La Tondeña Distillers Inc.'s** water and juice brands to **The Coca-Cola Co.** and the subsequent transfer of their operations to **Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.** have been finalized.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 9,000 of its shares at P8.10 per shares.

* * *

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. moved its principal office from the 6/F to the 7/F of Quad Alpha Centrum in Mandaluyong City. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

SMC selling treasury shares to raise $650M

By Elena R. Torrijos

SAN Miguel Corp. expects to raise $430 million to $650 million from a strategic investor by selling treasury shares equivalent to a 10-percent stake in the company.

The food and beverage giant plans to use the amount in financing its bid to acquire a Thai food and beverage conglomerate or two large local food and beverage companies.

An executive of SMC said that the company was planning to sell treasury shares to a strategic investor who, in turn, would be given the right to subscribe to an additional 5-percent stake via fresh capital infusion.

A fresh capital infusion, he said, would dilute the stake of existing shareholders by 5 percent.

SMC has an estimated 250 million unissued shares out of its P3 billion authorized capital stock.

From the sale of a 10 percent to 15 percent stake to a strategic investor, SMC is expected to generate about $430 million to $650 million. Three foreign companies—two European and one Japanese—have already been short-listed as potential strategic partners, the SMC official said.

The official clarified that SMC has been negotiating with a Thai food and beverage conglomerate for a possible buyout. He said that talks were currently focused on pricing and the assets and liabilities that would be included in the deal.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. has been in serious discussions with three foreign groups in the last three months, including Belguim's Interbrew and Japan's Kirin beer, for the sale of a strategic stake in SMC at $1.50 per share.

RFM seen selling poultry subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant RFM Corp. said on Friday it was open to selling its poultry unit, Swift Foods Inc., preferably to a dominant player like San Miguel Corp.

In an interview, RFM president Jose Concepcion III also told the INQUIRER that RFM was planning to take in strategic partners for its flour milling and property businesses.

Asked whether San Miguel was keen on buying Swift, Concepcion said SMC was interested considering the "good relationship" between San Miguel and RFM after the sale of RFM's Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel.

San Miguel said yesterday there were no serious discussions at present for it to purchase Swift Foods.

It admitted, however, that it had earlier expressed interest earlier in the company, a San Miguel official said.

"We have to contend with the entry of cheap chicken into the country. The only good thing is that there are three players left: ourselves, Vitarich (Corp.) and San Miguel," Concepcion added.

With San Miguel's recent acquisition of Pure Foods Inc. from Ayala Corp., Swifts and Vitarich have become niche players.

Concepcion said RFM was considering merging Swifts with Vitarich, but it was not rushing into any deal.

"There are people cautioning us because of the debt level of Vitarich. We are still evaluating our position in poultry. Would we like to be in it? Either we are able to partner with strong regional player or merge with a strong partner. If we can't do anything with it, we're open to selling," he said.

Concepcion told the INQUIRER RFM's restructuring would not end with the sale of Cosmos to San Miguel.

Federal Chemicals, Inc.
Small Investors Program

A total of 10% of the Offer Shares or 1,250,800 shares shall be made available to Local Small Investors during an offer period from December 3, 2001 to December 7, 2001.

A local small investor is a share subscriber who is willing to subscribe to a minimum board lot or whose subscription does not exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00). Depending on market conditions, however, this 10% allocation for local small investors can be supplemented by subscriptions exceeding a minimum board lot of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00). In the event of an oversubscription for this 10% allocation or under any other circumstances, priority shall be given to the local small investors.

The offer to Local Small Investors shall take place as follows:

1. **Minimum Subscription.** Minimum of 1,000 shares.
2. **Subscription Forms.** An interested subscriber should cut out said Application Form/Signature Card and photocopy the same to meet the four (4) copy requirement.

   Forms shall also be made available at selected RCBC Business Centers.
3. **Number of Forms.** Subscribers are not precluded from submitting more than one set of Application Forms for the purchase of additional board lots.
4. **Payment.** Forms should be filed at selected Business Centers on or before 12:30 noon of December 7, 2001. All applications should be supported by the following documents:
   i. duly accomplished Application Form, in quadruplicate;
   ii. duly accomplished Signature Card, in quadruplicate;
   iii. photocopy of any of the following identification cards: SSS, GSIS, TIN, Passport; and
   iv. manager's check in payment of the subscription.
5. **Rejection of Application.** The Business Centers shall have the authority to reject any Application Form filled up incorrectly or with incomplete supporting documents.
6. **Oversubscription.** In the event of oversubscription, priority shall be given to investors subscribing to the minimum board lot and any additional applications shall be disqualified. In the event of oversubscription where there are no multiple applications, the Lead Underwriter shall conduct a raffle to randomly determine the subscriptions to be accepted.

   If any application is rejected or accepted in part only, the application money or the appropriate portion of the same shall be returned without interest by way of a refund check made out in favor of the applicant and crossed "Payee's Account Only". The refund check shall be made available at the specific RCBC business center applied with until the end of the Offer Period and if not claimed within 30 days thereafter, the checks shall be mailed at the applicant's address as specified in his Application Form, at the applicant's risk.
7. **Stock Certificates.** As a matter of policy, the PSE requires the registration and lodging of a Company's securities for an IPO in the PCD. The PCD is a private institution which provides the depository and settlement system for securities, using the Book Entry System to record the ownership of shares. The BES allows the transfer of securities between accounts without the need for the issuance and transfer of stock certificates to the parties executing the trade or scripless trading.

   An Eligible Applicant shall have the choice of either: (i) lodging the shares with the PCD by electing a PCD participant (i.e., PSE member-brokers, custodian banks, institutional investors and other corporations or institutions that are active players in the Philippine equity market), provided that the Applicant is a *bonafide* client of the appointed PCD participant; or (ii) requesting for a stock certificate evidencing his ownership of such shares. The Eligible Applicant should indicate his choice in the Application to Subscribe.

   Should the Eligible Applicant fail to indicate his choice or provide incomplete or false information with regard to his choice as required hereinafter, this may lead to an automatic issuance of the stock certificate, subject to certain terms and conditions of the Offer, without prejudice to the Issue Managers' and Lead Underwriters' right to reject or scale-down such Application.

   The Offer Shares will be lodged with the PCD at least two (2) trading days prior to the Listing Date while the stock certificates will be issued and made available to Eligible Applicants who opted for certificates within three (3) trading days after the Listing Date.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3, 2001	Start of Offer
December 7, 2001	End of Offer to Local Small Investors
December 7, 2001	Raffle for Local Small Investors
December 7, 2001	Results of the Raffle
December 21, 2001	Listing

LIST OF RECEIVING CENTERS

RCBC Capital Corporation, 7th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION (RCBC) BUSINESS CENTERS
METRO MANILA: Alabang, Binondo, Cubao, Kalookan, RCBC Plaza
LUZON: Baguio City, Naga City
VISMIN: Cebu City – Fuente Osmeña, Davao City

For more information, please contact RCBC Capital Corporation at Tel. No. 894-9000 ext. 2207/2212

FC
FEDERAL CHEMICALS, INC.
ELEVEN RD GRACE VILLAGE, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY

APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE
Initial Public Offering of 12,508,000 New Common Shares
With Par Value of Php1.00 per share at Php7.00 per share

This application form together with the signature card, remittance of payment, and all application materials, must be received not later than December 7, 2001, 12:30 p.m., if filed with the Selling Agent, or not later than 10:00 a.m., December 10, 2001 (the "Offer Period Closing Date") if filed directly with an Underwriter for the Offer unless extended or terminated earlier with the approval of the Exchange at such time and date as of the Offer Shares are fully sold.

Applications received thereafter, or without the attachments specified below will be rejected. This application is irrevocable and, once received, may not be withdrawn by the applicant. The Company thru the Issue Manager reserves the right to accept or reject this Application. Applications improperly or incompletely accomplished may be rejected. In case of oversubscription, the Company thru the Issue Manager reserves the right to allocate the shares available to Applicants in a manner they deem appropriate.

APPLICATION

I/We apply to purchase Federal Chemicals, Inc. ("FCI" or the "Company") Shares under the terms and conditions stated herein and in the Prospectus for the Offer of such shares, as follows:

NUMBER OF SHARES	PRICE PER SHARE	TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE
	P7.00	

PAYMENT

The Offer Shares must be paid for in full upon submission of the Application. Payments should be made by check drawn against a Bangko Sentral Authorized bank in Metro Manila to the order of "Federal Chemicals, Inc. IPO". The check must be dated as of the date of the Application and crossed "PAYEE'S ACCOUNT ONLY".

TYPE OF CHECK ○ Personal ○ Corporate ○ Manager's/Cashier's

BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT

WARRANTY

I/WE REPRESENT AND WARRANT THAT ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN AND THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. I/WE WARRANT HAVING READ AND UNDERSTOOD AND RELIED SOLELY UPON THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STATED WITHIN THIS APPLICATION AND UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED SAID TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO PERSON HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFER SHARES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED IN THE PROSPECTUS.

NAME OF APPLICANT IN PRINT	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	DATE
ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	TAX IDENTIFICATION NO.
	NATIONALITY	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
(Applicants should not fill up this section)

To be completed by the Underwriting/Selling Agent
Application received with all the documents required below by
(Name of Underwriter/Trading Participant)
By
Date

To be completed by the Receiving Bank
Application received by
Total No. of Shares
By
Date

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION
1 [illegible]
2 One fully executed signature card in the form attached to this Application
3 If the Applicant is a Corporation, Partnership, Trust Account, [illegible] the following documents
(i) [illegible]
(ii) [illegible]

FC
☐ Individual
☐ Corporate

Specimen Signature Card

Name
(Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)
Mailing Address
T.I.N. Tel No. Citizenship

Specimen Signatures for Individuals: *(Please sign twice)*
1.) 1.)
2.) 2.)

For Corporate Applicants: Use Reverse Side for Specimen Signature

Important: Certificates will not be transferred unless a specimen signature of the stockholder is on file with the transfer agent of the Company. For your protection, please fill out this card and return it with your Application.

Signature Verified by:
(Signature Over Printed Name)
Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER

1. THE OFFER SHARES - The Company is offering for subscription to the public, a total of Twelve Million Five Hundred Eight Thousand (12,508,000) New Common Shares, each with a par value of One Peso (Php1.00) per share which are being made available for subscription in the Philippines. The Offer Shares will represent approximately 33.35% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Company after completion of the Offer.
2. OFFER PRICE - The Offer Shares shall be offered at a price of Php7.00 per share.
3. OFFER PERIOD - The Offer Period for local small investors and Trading Participants shall commence at 9:00 a.m. of December 3, 2001 and shall expire at 12:30 p.m. of December 7, 2001. With respect to the Offering to the general public, the Offer Period shall start at 9:00 a.m. of December 3, 2001 and shall end at 10:00 a.m. of December 10, 2001. The Company and Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter reserves the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period at anytime, subject to the approval of the PSE.
4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS - The Offer Shares may be purchased by any person who is at least eighteen (18) years old or a corporation, partnership or trust account subject to restrictions on the ownership, sale or transfer of the Offer Shares.
5. MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION - Eligible Applicants shall have the right to subscribe to a minimum of one thousand (1,000) shares, and thereafter, in multiples of one thousand (1,000) shares. No Application of multiples of any other number of shares shall be considered.
6. PAYMENT TERMS - Eligible Applicants subscribing to the Offer Shares are required to pay the full amount of the Offer Shares applied for upon submission of their duly accomplished Application to Subscribe to the Underwriters or a designated Trading Participant. In case there are any Offer Shares that are not taken up by the Eligible Applicants, the Underwriters shall subscribe, or shall cause their clients to subscribe, to all unsold Offer Shares in accordance with their firm commitment to underwrite the same and shall remit the full payment of their subscription and/or that of their clients to the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter not later than 10:00 a.m. of December 11, 2001 or on such date as may be agreed upon in writing by the Issuer and the Issue Managers and Lead Underwriters.

   Payments for the subscription and purchase of the Offer Shares shall be made by check drawn against a BSP authorized agent bank in Metro Manila and made payable to the order of "Federal Chemicals, Inc. IPO" crossed "Payee's Account Only".
7. APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE - Eligible Applicants may subscribe to and purchase the Offer Shares by submitting a duly completed Application to Subscribe (defined to include one (1) fully executed signature card, accompanying payment and other documentary requirements as may be indicated below, if applicable), which must be received by the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter on or before 10:00 a.m. of December 10, 2001 or on such later date as may be agreed upon in writing by the Issuer and the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter. In case any Offer Shares are not taken up by the Eligible Applicants, the Underwriters and/or their clients shall submit their respective duly completed Application to Subscribe to the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter not later than 10:00 a.m. of December 11, 2001 or on such later date as may be agreed upon in writing by the Issuer and the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter.
8. SMALL INVESTOR PROGRAM - In compliance with SEC-BED Circular No. 4, Series of 1997, ten percent (10%) of the entire IPO shall be offered to "local small investors". A local small investor is a share subscriber who is willing to subscribe to a minimum board lot or whose subscription does not exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00). Depending on market conditions, however, the 10% allocation for local small investors can be supplemented by subscriptions exceeding a minimum board lot of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00). In the event of an oversubscription for this 10% allocation or under any other circumstances, priority shall be given to the local small investors.
9. REQUIREMENTS FOR CORPORATE APPLICANTS - Applicants who are corporations whether foreign or local, partnerships or trusts eligible to subscribe to and purchase the Offer Shares are required to submit the following documents, in quadruplicate, together with the Application to Subscribe and duly executed signature card: (i) Copy of the Applicant's SEC Certificate of Registration, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, or other constitutive documents as amended (if applicable) and (ii) Certificate of the Corporate Secretary of the Applicant attesting to the Resolution of the Applicant's Board of Directors which: (1) authorizes the subscription and/or purchase of the Offer Shares applied for and specifying the signatories for the purpose, and (2) includes specimen signatures of the designated authorized signatories.
10. REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-RESIDENT INDIVIDUAL OR FOREIGN CORPORATE AND INSTITUTIONAL APPLICANTS - In addition to the documents required for either Individual or Corporate Applicants above, non-resident individuals or foreign corporate and institutional Applicants are required to submit in quadruplicate, together with their Application to Purchase, a representation and warranty stating that their investing in the Offer Shares being applied for will not violate the rules of their jurisdiction and that they are allowed to acquire or invest in the Offer Shares.
11. RIGHT TO ACCEPT/REJECT/SCALE DOWN APPLICATIONS - As authorized by the Issuer, the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter reserve the right to jointly reject, scale down or reallocate any Application for the Offer Shares. Applications to Subscribe in respect of which checks are dishonored upon presentment or Applications to Subscribe which do not comply with the terms of the Offer, and which are deficient in any material information required therein, shall be rejected. In the event of an oversubscription of the Offer Shares, the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter, as authorized by the Issuer, shall likewise have the right to scale down any Offer Shares applied for. An Application to Subscribe, once accepted, shall constitute the Subscription Agreement between the Applicant and the Issuer for the Offer Shares. In case of reduction or rejection, the Underwriter shall inform the Applicant in writing of such reduction or rejection within ten (10) Banking Days after the end of the Offer Period.
12. REFUNDS - Refunds, in whole or in part, of payments for any Application not accepted or scaled down shall made without interest. Each refund check shall be made available for pick-up at the Head Office of the Issuer or the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter within ten (10) Banking Days after the close of the Offer. Refund checks which remain unclaimed after thirty (30) Banking Days from Issue Date shall then be mailed at the risk of the Applicant to the address specified by the Applicant in its/his Application to Subscribe.
13. DELIVERY OF STOCK CERTIFICATES - As a matter of policy, the PSE requires the registration and lodging of a company's securities for an IPO in the PCD. The PCD is a private institution which provides the depository and settlement system for securities, using the Book Entry System to record the ownership of shares. The BES allows the transfer of securities between accounts without the need for the issuance and transfer of stock certificates to the parties executing the trade or scripless trading.

    An Eligible Applicant shall have the choice of either: (i) lodging the shares with the PCD by electing a PCD participant (i.e., PSE Trading participants, custodian banks, institutional investors and other corporations or institutions that are active players in the Philippine equity market), provided that the Applicant is a bonafide client of the appointed PCD participant; or (ii) requesting for a stock certificate evidencing his ownership of such shares. The Eligible Applicant should indicate his choice in the Application to Subscribe.

    Should the Eligible Applicant fail to indicate his choice or provide incomplete or false information with regard to his choice as required hereinafter, this may lead to an automatic issuance of the stock certificate, subject to certain terms and conditions of the Offer, without prejudice to the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter's right to reject or scale-down such Application.

    The Offer Shares will be lodged with the PCD at least two (2) trading days prior to the Listing Date while the stock certificates will be issued and made available to Eligible Applicants who opted for certificates within three (3) trading days after the Listing Date.
14. TAXES - All documentary stamp taxes applicable to the original issuance of the Offer Shares and all taxes relating to the Offer shall be for the account of the Issuer.
15. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT - The Issuer does not undertake to register any foreign investment with respect to the Offer Shares with the BSP. It shall be the obligation of the foreign investor to secure the necessary clearances and/or approvals from the BSP regarding repatriation of the investments in the Offer Shares and remittance of dividends.
16. LISTING - An application for listing of the Offer Shares on the Second Board has been filed with the PSE. Acceptance of all Applications to Subscribe the Offer Shares is conditional upon the listing of the Offer Shares with the PSE. It is expected that the Offer Shares shall be listed with the PSE on December 21, 2001 and trading of the Offer Shares is expected to commence on the same date. In the event that the Common Shares are not listed with the Exchange for any reason, the Company shall return the payments made by the Applicants for the Offer Shares under their respective Applications to Subscribe without interest.
17. STOCK TRANSFER AGENT - RCBC Trust and Investment Division shall act as the Stock Transfer Agent for the purpose of authenticating and registering transfer of the Offer Shares as set forth in the Stock Transfer Agreement.
18. RESTRICTION ON ISSUANCE AND DISPOSAL OF SHARES - In compliance with the PSE Listing Rules applicable to companies applying to list on the Second Board, all existing shareholders at the time of filing of the application for listing shall enter into an agreement with the Exchange not to sell, assign, or in any manner, dispose of all their shares after the close of its initial public offering and for the duration of two (2) years following the listing of said shares. In addition, the Company shall not issue additional shares within one hundred eighty (180) days from Listing Date.

THE APPLICANT IS ADVISED TO READ THE OFFERING PROSPECTUS FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARES AND THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THEY ARE OFFERED.

Dear Applicant,

Please indicate if you want to receive stock certificate(s) for your subscription to shares of stock of Federal Chemicals, Inc. (FCI) by signing on the space provided for below.

Stock certificate(s) will be delivered to the Selling Agent and/or Underwriter to whom you submitted your application to subscribe within three (3) days after Listing Date of the FCI shares in the Philippine Stock Exchange. Stock certificate(s) unclaimed after sixty (60) days will be mailed, at the Applicant's risk, to the address indicated in the Application To Subscribe.

Thank you.

FEDERAL CHEMICALS, INC.

This will confirm that the undersigned Applicant wishes to receive stock certificate(s) for his subscription to shares of stock of Federal Chemicals, Inc. This will authorized Federal Chemicals, Inc. and/or the Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter, RCBC Capital Corporation, and/or the transfer agent, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) – Trust and Investment Division, to take any and all steps to cause the issuance of the stock certificate(s) in my name. This will also serve as a request to the Philippine Central Depository, Inc. (PCDI) to cause the upliftment of shares of Federal Chemicals, Inc. registered in the name of the undersigned for eventual issuance of stock certificate(s)

Thank you.

Name and Signature of Applicant

Date:

ISLACOM'S RATE RESTRUCTURING

National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo M. Rio Jr. (second from left) awards to Dieter Sieber, VP of Deutsche Telekom Asia (middle), the approved application of Isla Communications for rate restructuring of its international, domestic and local voice services. Witnessing the event are (from left) Kathleen G. Heceta, NTC deputy commissioner; Rudiger Schlolaut, VP, DT Foundation; Hans Brockmann, DT consultant for Islacom and Froilan Castelo, assistant vice president for regulatory matters of Globe and Islacom.

OFW remittances seen to drop by $600M this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR remittances by overseas Filipino workers this year are expected to drop by at least $600 million from last year's $6.1 billion.

Foreign banks, among them Deutsche Bank, have projected that the OFWs' dollar remittances would reach only $5.5 billion this year. Deutsche Bank said other members of the industry shared this projection.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura admitted that the foreign exchange inflow from OFWs might not be as strong as the previous year's level because of the global recession that has affected not only the country's merchandise exports but also its service exports.

"We are living in an uncertain times and some of our OFWs may have been hit by the recession. Some may have taken a wage cut while others may have lost their jobs," said the central bank chief.

The government is counting on the inflow of dollars from OFWs, which usually peak in November and December, to beef up the country's reserves and protect the peso from volatility.

Deutsche Bank officials said the expected weakness in the dollar inflow this year, which was also caused by a huge contraction in export receipts, was the basis of an earlier forecast of a P52.50 to a dollar exchange rate.

"The dollar remittance this year is lower compared to last year's level which is part of the basis of our projection," said Peter Redward, the German bank's currency strategist in Asia.

A trader from another foreign bank agreed that the dollar inflow from OFWs would be lower this year but he was hoping other factors might still help boost the peso.

In the first semester, dollar remittances of Filipino overseas workers amounted to only about $2.7 billion.

The Filipino workers' dollar remittances comprise a big portion of the country's gross national product.

A healthy dollar inflow, said the central bank, should be one of the factors that would not only push the peso up but also trigger economic growth while global economies slow down.

Although slightly lower compared to last year, Buenaventura said the dollar remittances should still help the Philippine economy cope with lower dollar receipts from exports.

The BSP is expecting export earnings to drop by 15 percent this year compared to a growth of 8.7 percent last year.

He added that a healthy dollar inflow should help complement the performance of the domestic economy particularly from agriculture, services, and consumer and public spending.

PT&T raising ₱24M to fund Internet projects

By Abigail L. Ho

TELECOMMUNICATIONS firm Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said it would raise P24 million to finance its Internet-based products and services through short-term private placements.

PT&T president and chief executive Jose Luis Santiago said PT&T's Internet-based products and services would be its "key revenue drivers" in the next several years.

He said the company was looking for at most 19 investors who would infuse money into the company as it refocused its thrust to corporate data business and the modernization of its public calling offices nationwide.

PT&T can tap only 19 investors in line with the limitations imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission on private corporations.

The financing facility being eyed by the company will be payable in one year bearing an interest rate of 18 percent yearly.

It is considering a balloon payment scheme at the end of one year. Pre-payment will be allowed without penalties.

Santiago said the company needed to raise P24 million to help finance the initial rollout of the company's broadband technology service, SuperCom, and the modernization of its Click & Call stations all over the country.

The projected capital expenditure (capex) requirement for SuperCom was placed at P1.6 billion over 10 years, with projected revenues of P10.6 billion for the same period.

Aside from additional capital infusion, the broadband technology service will be funded by short term financing for the first year, supplier financing over a 10-year period and internally generated funds.

Click & Call was estimated to cost P461 million over a 10-year period from 2001 to 2011. Earnings over 10 years were estimated at P2.4 billion.

The modernization of the calling and computer stations will be funded through short-term financing worth P13 million.

"We need to transform our business. We need to do a paradigm shift, focusing on our corporate business. We'll solidify our position in the gaming and banking sectors. And while other telecom firms saturate the commercial banking industry, we will strengthen our presence in savings and rural banks," he said.

DA orders probe of tomato paste dumping in RP

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday ordered an investigation of an apparent dumping of cheap tomato paste into the country, which has already displaced scores of local tomato farmers and has driven the country's leading tomato paste maker into the brink of extinction.

The order came after Northern Foods Corp. (NFC), an Ilocos Sur-based firm and one of only two surviving tomato paste companies in the country, had petitioned the Department of Agriculture to impose general safeguard measures against tomato paste imports.

"We must listen to our local agricultural producers' complaints and if necessary, directly intervene to protect the interest of our farmers," Montemayor said.

Invoking the Safeguard Measures Act, NFC said concrete government protection should be made against cheap imported tomato paste. It said that without these measures, the company was expected to suffer even more. Unabated importation, it added, could result in the collapse of the P150-million domestic tomato paste industry.

Montemayor said that based on existing data, there were indications NFC's claims were valid.

A report submitted by the Trade Remedies Office of the DA showed that tomato paste imports, mostly from China, Turkey and the United States, jumped from 2,227 metric tons in 1999 to 3,486 MT in 2000. They were sold at the local market in 1999 at P31.11 per kilo, lower than the P32.75 production cost per unit of NFC that year.

In 2000, the import price dropped further at P22.91 per kilo, lower than the P28.14 per kilo selling price of NFC that year. In the first six months of 2001, imported price dropped further to P20.27, off the P25.12 selling price of the local firm.

Because the imported paste had been coming in cheap, its local market share rose from 34 percent in 1999 to 40 percent last year and 65 percent in the first semester of the year. NFC inventories, indicating volume of unsold items, rose from 1,117 MT in 1999 to 2,716 MT in 2000 to 3,201 in the first half.

NFC officials also said most of the 2,500 tomato farmers of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte with whom the firm has contract growing arrangements, stand to lose their jobs if no safeguard measures were in place to protect the local tomato paste.

The number of plant workers was reduced from 338 in 1999 to 183 in the first half of the year. Fifty more employees would be laid off by Dec. 15 to cut further losses, company officials said.

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ONLY WEAPON LEFT

Japan must swallow dose of painful reform

TOKYO—Reform is the only weapon left for Japan to fight its way out of recession, the government said in a key report Tuesday, as another ratings agency downgraded Japan's sovereign debt.

"Without reforms, no gains" is the theme of the Cabinet Office's annual policy paper aimed at raising public awareness about Japan's structural problems and gaining support for painful changes at a time when unemployment is already at a record high.

A greater sense of urgency may be generated after Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday cut Japan's yen-denominated domestic bond rating to Aa3 from Aa2 and hinted at a further downgrade by maintaining a negative outlook.

"(The move) is prompted by fiscal strains that will likely persist owing to the country's ongoing economic weakness and the elusiveness of effective policy remedies," the US rating agency said.

But the government report said Tokyo believed it had the answer to Japan's chronic ailments.

The banking sector—stricken by a growing mountain of debt—inefficient government spending and two years of deflation have combined to chill consumption, cut output and stagnate growth in the world's second largest economy, it said.

Banks must cut non-performing loans on their books to safe levels within three years under a reform drive announced by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Many analysts say financial aid will be necessary to help banks get back on their feet, but the report maintains this will only happen in a crisis.

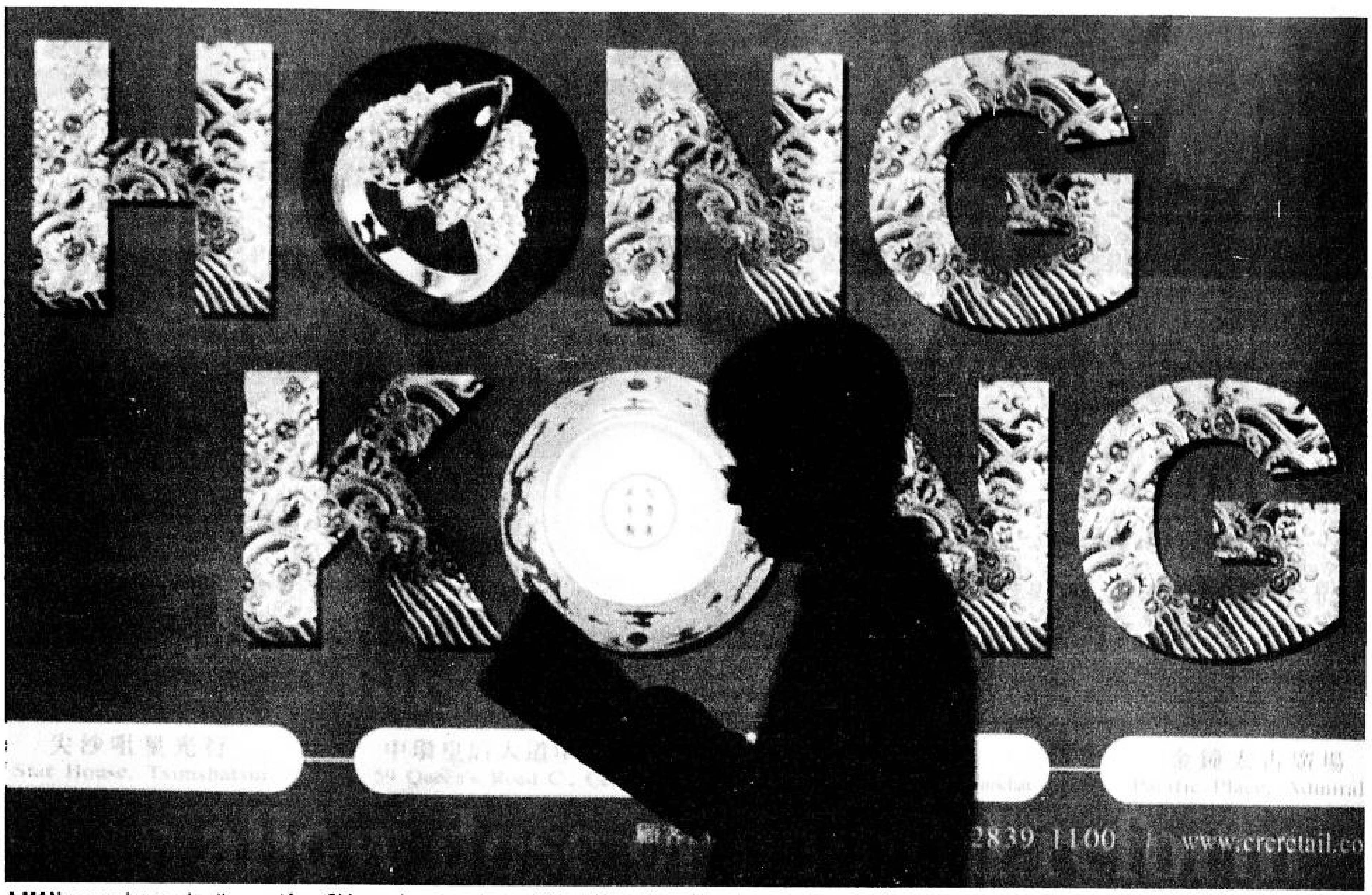
A cleanup of the financial sector, although crucial, is not the sole solution to Japan's economic malaise, according to the document.

National debt—pushed up through years of extra budgets, largely spent on wasteful public works projects in a bid to boost demand—continues to swell despite a pledge by Koizumi to cap new government bond issues at 30 trillion yen ($252 billion) this year.

"If the current situation continues, the balance of public bonds will explode, leading to financial ruin," warned the document, adding that reform was the only option for Japan.

Deregulation must be encouraged to increase competition and more money should be channeled into new business areas and used to support Japan's growing jobless rate, which hit a new high of 5.4 percent in October.

The report called on the Bank of Japan to do more to help combat a nationwide price slide, with consumer prices down for the 26th consecutive month in October. *AFP*



A MAN passes by an advertisement for a Chinese department store in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is hoping to get a head start in China with its proposal for a free trade zone, but it is less clear what Beijing would get out of such a deal. The bid comes as the territory is facing its second recession since the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, and businesses are increasingly looking to the mainland for growth.

REUTERS

38,000 workers retrenched in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Around 38,000 people lost their jobs in Malaysia between January and November, many of them in the country's key electronics industry, which had been hard hit by the global slowdown, news reports said Tuesday.

Human Resources Minister Fong Chan Onn said most jobs lost since the start of the year in the electronic production sector, and women workers were the hardest hit, news reports said.

Electronics and electronic components form more than half of Malaysia's total exports, and the United States is Malaysia's biggest trading partner.

But the global slowdown this year, made worse by the economic fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, caused a slump in demand and a sharp decline in Malaysian exports.

Malaysia acknowledged late last month it had slipped into recession after gross domestic product shrank 1.3 percent in the third quarter, the first year-on-year contraction since the first quarter of 1999, when the country was climbing out of the Asian economic crisis.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has launched economic stimulus packages in an effort to encourage local demand.

Fong said there were signs that demand was rising and of a recovery in the electronics sector in the second quarter of 2002.

"Although 38,000 people lost their jobs, there were 130,000 new vacancies reported," in the textile, plastic and food industries, Fong was quoted as saying in the New Straits Times newspaper.

Fong said 53 percent of those who had lost their jobs since January were women.

"In times of economic downturn, women are vulnerable to retrenchment and we will have to retrain them to acquire other skills," the national Bernama news agency quoted him as saying.

He said Malaysia had 9 million workers, one-third of whom were women.

Fong told Parliament on Tuesday that Malaysia exported 58.6 billion ringgit ($15.41 billion) worth of electronic and electrical products to the United States in 2000, of total exports worth 76.6 billion ringgit ($20 billion), the national Bernama news agency reported.

But exports of electronics to the United States plummeted by 13.7 percent in the January-September 2001 period, compared to the same period last year, he said. *AP*

Sanyo planning next-generation screen with Kodak

TOKYO—Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd., Japan's third-largest consumer electronics maker, said on Tuesday it would set up a venture with Eastman Kodak Co. to get a head start over rivals in making ultra-thin next-generation display screens.

The venture will expand cooperation between the two in organic electroluminescent (OEL) display technology, which Japanese electronics makers hope to use in cell phones, digital cameras and other hand-held gadgets with size and battery-power constraints.

The venture, which media said would start volume output next spring, would launch the first salvo in a looming battle for the fledgling but potentially fast-growing market for active-matrix OEL screens.

A slew of other Japanese high-tech manufacturers plans to pile into the market over the next year or so.

They include Toshiba Corp., a joint effort between NEC Corp. and Samsung SDI Co., and a venture comprising Tohoku Pioneer Corp., a subsidiary of consumer electronics and flat panel display maker Pioneer Corp., an affiliate of TDK Corp. and Sharp Corp.

Most use materials technology patented and licensed by Kodak.

The business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported Sanyo Electric and Kodak would set up a venture owned 60 percent by Sanyo with initial capitalization of about 500 million yen and a sales target of 50 billion yen ($400 million).

The spokesperson said Sanyo Electric was already producing 2.4-inch OEL screens on a trial basis at a pilot plant in Gifu prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, and had already been working jointly on OEL screen development with Kodak.

The news of the manufacturing venture drew only a brief response from the market, with Sanyo Electric's shares rising 4.4 percent to 641 yen shortly after the opening but then slipping into negative territory in the afternoon.

In late afternoon trade, Sanyo was down 0.65 percent at 610 yen, underperforming the benchmark Nikkei average's gain of 0.29 percent.

Unlike traditional liquid crystal displays, which require back-lighting, an OEL screen emits light when a current is passed through it, allowing thinner screens.

The technology, particularly the more complex active-matrix variety, promises brighter contrasts, greater energy efficiency and the fast response times needed for full-motion video.

Sanyo expects the market for OEL screens to grow to 45 billion yen in 2003-2004 and to 220 billion yen in 2005-2006, although estimates vary widely.

Market researcher Stanford Resources has estimated the market would be worth $1.6 billion in 2007, although another firm, DisplaySearch, has forecast $3.1 billion in 2005.

Most manufacturers are eyeing the technology for portable and hand-held devices, although Sony Corp., the world's largest maker of audio-visual electronics, in February unveiled a larger, 13-inch screen for flat-panel TVs it aims to mass-produce by 2003.

Samsung SDI, South Korea's largest display maker, said in October it had developed a 15-inch OEL screen.

Despite its involvement in an OEL joint venture, Sharp, Japan's largest liquid crystal display maker, has been focusing heavily on next-generation continuous grain silicon technology for LCDs, which will save power and boost performance by incorporating circuitry into panel screens.

A Sharp spokesperson added that for mobile phones, semi-transparent LCD screens that could reflect sunlight and were now used in most full-color handsets in Japan offered low power consumption and were more easily visible in bright light than OEL screens. *Reuters*

Asian high-yield bonds to offer best returns for 2002, says ING Barings

SINGAPORE—Asian high-yield bonds are projected to offer returns of up to 15 percent in 2002, global investment bank ING Barings said on Tuesday, ranking them among the best fixed-income earners.

Some Asian sovereign bonds, or those with full credit backing of national governments, are also among the most attractive, the bank said.

"ING Barings predicts that Asian high-yield bonds will offer the best fixed-income returns for investors—up to 15 percent—over the next 12 months," it said in a press statement.

"Continuing on from the strong performance already seen in 2001, high-yield bonds will become more attractive for investors as they still appear cheap for their ratings, credit profiles remain steady and demand is likely to rise in 2002," it added.

Asian investors are expected to raise their risk profiles next year due to the belief that "the worst is over for Asian asset prices," it said.

ING Barings credit research chief Damien Wood described Asian high-yield bonds as a "buyer's market."

"We think investors will decide that the worst is over for Asian asset prices and will look to improve on returns generated by low risk assets. This should improve the outlook for Asian high-yield bonds," he said.

ING Barings chief regional economist Tim Condon said some Asian government-backed bonds are expected to shine as the US economy recovers and investors become more comfortable with potential risks. *AFP*

Bank of Thailand to sue former chief

BANGKOK—The Bank of Thailand would sue its former governor, Remgchai Marakanond, for his handling of the 1997 currency crash that left the country 70 billion baht ($1.6 billion) out of pocket, a report said Tuesday.

Current BOT governor Pridiyathorn Devakula said the central bank would launch a civil suit through public prosecutors, according to the Nation newspaper.

The bank declined to comment when contacted by AFP but said they would hold a press conference later in the day.

The bank had been expected to make a decision on whether to press charges against Rerngchai—in charge of foreign currency reserves in 1996 and 1997—after Friday's finding that he had been "severely careless" in his failed defense of the baht.

Some 2,000 currency swaps were made between November 1996 and June 1997 in an attempt to defend the baht from speculative trading, Pridiyathorn said, according to the report, resulting in a net loss to the country's reserves of 70 billion baht.

Bangkok was subsequently forced to seek a massive $17.2-billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. *AFP*

A TWO-WHEELED, battery powered transportation device, known as the Segway Human Transporter, is displayed at a studio in New York. The device was formerly known by its code-name "Ginger."

REUTERS

Enron secures emergency $1.5-B funding, fires 4,000 workers

A WOMAN carries a pair of boxes as she leaves Enron Corp.'s headquarters in downtown Houston. Enron filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sunday and filed a $10-billion lawsuit against Dynegy Inc. for scrapping a proposed buyout.

AP

HOUSTON/NEW YORK—Ruined Enron Corp. said it secured an emergency round of financing of $1.5 billion on Monday to run a skeleton operation as it fired 4,000 workers a day after the former energy trading behemoth filed the biggest bankruptcy in US corporate history.

The funds, which would come in the form of debtor-in-possession financing, were being provided by two of Enron's major creditors JP Morgan Chase and Citigroup after a day of hard negotiations between them and the Houston company's management.

Enron is also in talks with three parties that may lead to the sale of its trading business, which has revolutionized the way energy is bought and sold in a deregulating electricity industry in the United States, according to people familiar with the situation.

Enron will have immediate access to $250 million, which help Enron pay salaries and offer money to providers of goods and services needed to continue its trading operations.

An extra $250 million will be given to Enron as soon as the company provides the lenders with a satisfactory business plan. The $1-billion balance will be on the table once JP Morgan Chase and Citigroup can successfully syndicate or redistribute the loan among other lenders.

"With this financing in place, Enron can continue to do business and move forward to implement the first steps of its reorganization," Enron chair and chief executive Kenneth Lay said.

The financing plan came as Arthur Gonzalez, a judge in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York approved the petition filed by Enron for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and set Jan. 7, 2002 as the date for the next court hearing for an update.

Enron listed $49.8 billion in assets, easily dwarfing the $35.9 billion held by Texaco when it filed for bankruptcy in 1987.

But the only piece of positive news in several weeks for Enron was overshadowed by a lawsuit filed by former suitor Dynegy Inc. seeking control of Enron's crown-jewel pipeline.

In its lawsuit filed Monday, Dynegy sought an immediate injunction demanding that the Enron subsidiaries that owned the Northern Natural Gas pipeline honor their agreement to turn it over. Dynegy chair and chief executive Chuck Watson promised he would sue Enron for "frivolous and disingenuous" legal action.

Enron sued Dynegy on Sunday for $10 billion, alleging the former suitor breached an agreement to take it over.

"I don't think anyone should be surprised by Enron's lawsuit. It is one more example of Enron's failure to take responsibility for its own demise," Watson said in a conference call with investors.

While lawyers prepared to duel over the pipeline, Enron sent workers home for the day to await official notice. Lay told employees in an internal memo obtained by Reuters that Enron planned to let them "know where (they) stand by the end of the day Tuesday."

Workers packed up their belongings and walked out of Enron's twin silver towers into a gray, typically humid Houston afternoon—and an uncertain future.

There was a somber murmur of colleagues saying goodbye and trading information. Some talked on cell phones to loved ones, some snapped pictures outside by the Enron logo and others just milled about. *AP*

NOT LESS

Poor need more globalization–Greenspan

WASHINGTON—Poor countries need more globalization, not less, US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said Monday in a stiff defense of market-led economies.

"One would be hard pressed to cite examples of free and prosperous societies that shun the market place," the Federal Reserve boss told George Washington University.

"Contrary to much public opinion, contrary to much current opinion, developing countries need more globalization, not less," Greenspan said, rebuffing the arguments of some protesters.

"Such a course would likely bring with it greater economic stability and political freedom," he added.

Some people believed there was a trade-off between the way of the market place, which they likened to the law of the jungle, and civilization, Greenspan said.

"In contrast to these skeptical views, the ethical merits of market-driven outcomes are argued with increasing vigor by many others, especially in the United States."

They argued that market economies reflected the value preferences of consumers, he said.

"Largely unfettered markets create a consumer-led society," Greenspan said.

"In such an economy, the value of reputation, capitalized as goodwill in the market value of companies, competitively encourages perseverance in pursuing the objectives of quality and excellence," he argued.

Greenspan rejected the argument that people pursuing an improved material life through competition were necessarily giving up some form of civil conduct.

"Clearly, not all activities undertaken in markets are civil. Many, though legal, are decidedly unsavory. Violation of law and breaches of trust do undermine the efficiency of markets," he said.

"But solid legal foundations and the discipline of the marketplace limit these aberrations," Greenspan added.

"On net, vigorous competition over the years has produced a significant rise in the quality of life for the vast majority of the population in market oriented economies, including those at the bottom of the income distribution," he said. *AFP*

End of recession unclear, says Fed's Moskow

CHICAGO—The US economy is "extremely weak" and it is unclear when the nation will climb out of its recession, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago president Michael Moskow said on Monday.

But Moskow said a strong housing sector and a continued decrease in business inventories bode well for the ailing economy.

"The strength in the housing sector this year has been very positive for the US economy that is clearly extremely weak at this point," Moskow told an audience at the University of Chicago business school.

"Recessions do end, I just unfortunately can't tell you exactly when," he said. Last week, the private sector panel that is considered the official arbiter of US business cycles said the economy was in fact in a recession.

Moskow's comments came eight days before the Fed's next policymaking meeting. The Fed has cut interest rates 10 times this year—three times since the Sept. 11 attacks—to their lowest level in 40 years.

Many economists expect the Fed will cut rates again at its meeting on Dec. 11.

The US housing market has been a bright spot in the otherwise weak economy this year. Reports last week showed sales of new and existing homes rose in October after dropping in September, when shell-shocked consumers dropped plans to buy and sell homes in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

On the inventory front, businesses have been reducing bloated stocks for much of the year. A decrease in those inventories is considered a plus for the economy. When firms see that their stocks have declined to acceptable levels they will begin ordering new goods, which will lead to increased production, economists argue. *Reuters*

China mainland, HK, Macau plan trade zone

HONG KONG—A free trade area encompassing mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, could be set up before the end of next year in a bid to boost the flagging economy of both China's Hong Kong and Macau special administrative regions, it was reported Tuesday.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa and his administration believed a free trade area could help Hong Kong achieve a successful economic transformation, the independent Chinese-language Ming Pao daily, citing unidentified sources, said.

The government is said to be drafting a detailed proposal so that Tung and financial secretary Antony Leung could visit Beijing shortly to further discuss the main principles relating to the plan.

The paper, quoting Beijing sources, said that the central government might further express its support as Tung seeks re-election in March next year at the end of his term as the first chief executive of the former British colony after the 1997 handover.

It said further discussions would then be held among officials in the three places on ways to implement the proposal before the end of next year.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Economic Times citing government sources as saying that the special administrative region's discussion with the central government in Beijing on the formation of a free trade area was "in good progress."

Both papers said the mainland's financial and insurance industries as well as the services sector would serve as new test points under the free trade area plan.

Hong Kong's film industry may also get more quotas in connection with its entry into the mainland market. *AFP*

Semiconductor sales hit $10.4B in October

SAN FRANCISCO—Global sales of semiconductors rose to $10.43 billion in October, up 2.5 percent from the September figure, the Semiconductor Industry Association said Monday.

"The October sales are another indication that the industry is on track to achieve our forecast of 4.7-percent growth in the fourth quarter," said George Scalise, SIA president.

Scalise said the worldwide market for semiconductors in 2001 was expected to decline 31 percent due to excessive inventories and falling prices on a wide range of products.

But he added that "recent data indicates inventory is now largely in balance and prices are rebounding in some product categories."

With the exception of Japan, where sales declined 2.6 percent, all other markets made gains, led by Europe with 5.1-percent growth. *AFP*

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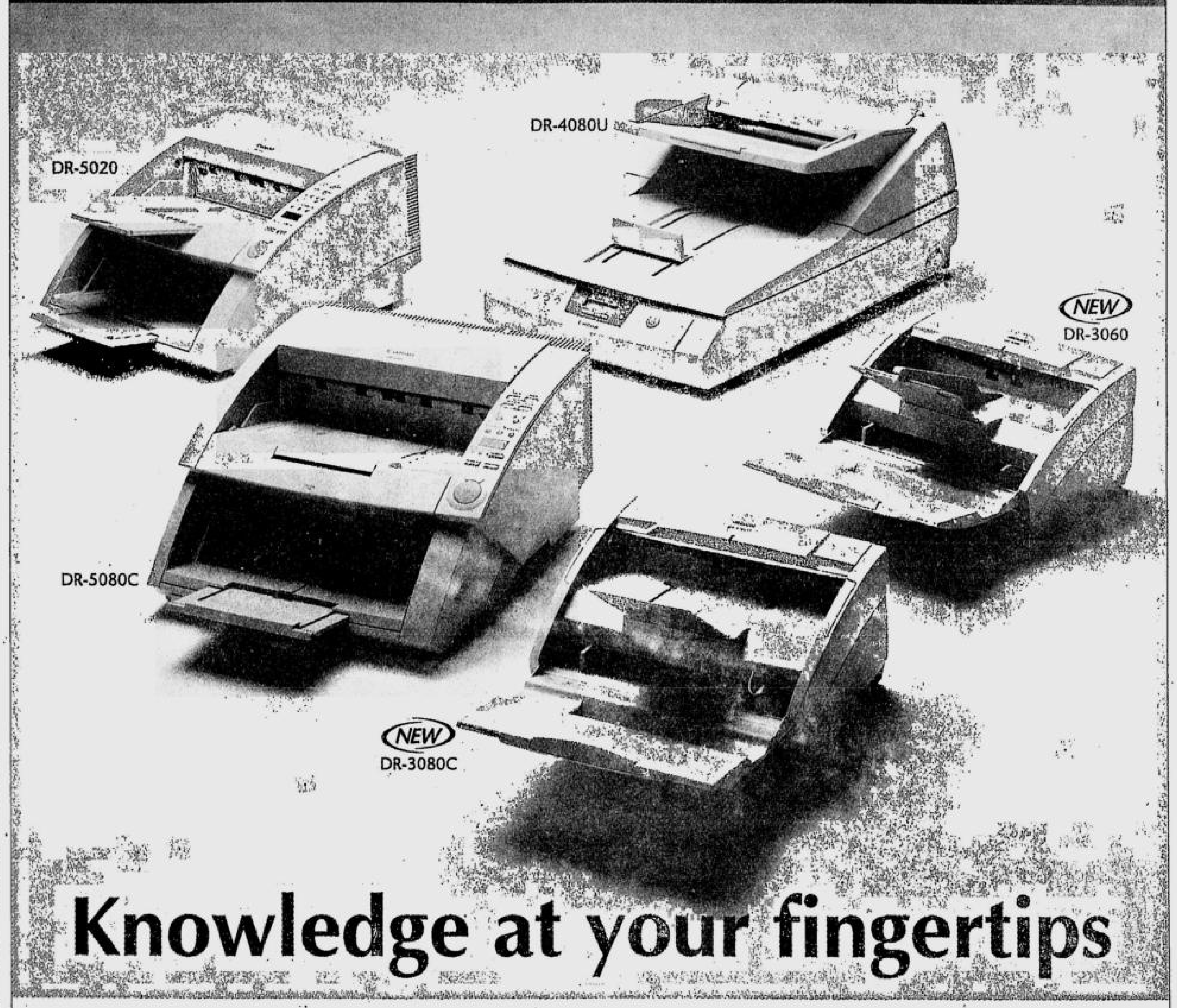

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Smart sees extending validity of SIM cards

By Abigail L. Ho

PREPAID subscribers of Smart Communications Inc. may soon have more time to save up enough money to reload value into their prepaid accounts.

The cellular service giant is planning to extend the duration of the validity of its prepaid SIM (subscriber identification module) cards to more than the existing six-month period.

A highly placed source from the telecommunications firm revealed that Smart was considering widening the validity window because of the economic slowdown.

The source explained that the economic downturn had significantly decreased the purchasing power of their subscribers, increasing the number of SIM card deactivations due to "unrefreshed" zero-balance accounts.

"Because of the economy, our churn has increased and this, in turn, has affected our revenues," he said.

Churn refers to the rate at which subscribers discontinue their subscriptions to a certain telecom firm.

He added that Smart had tried coming up with various come-ons to attract subscribers to reload more value into their accounts, but these efforts proved futile as the pull of the bad economy was greater.

"But this won't be the case for a very long time. This is just a contingency measure to control our churn rate," he said.

From six months, the validity of zero-balance SIM cards would be stretched a few more months. But the source said this extension would be less than a year.

"With holiday spending, we expect many new subscribers to come in. We'll revert to the (old duration of validity) when the economy picks up," he said.

In a related development, National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said the NTC was "exploring the possibility of an out-of-court settlement" with Smart and other cellular service provider Globe Telecom Inc. for the extension of the validity of prepaid call and text cards as well as the implementation of the per 6-second pulse charging scheme.

Gov't seen buying out failed Enron

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said on Monday that the government would be willing to buy out independent power producer Enron Power Corp. Philippines' contract should Enron offer a higher discount rate.

Enron's US-based parent company, considered in the energy industry as a champion of deregulation, recently filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Enron has two oil-fired power plants in the Philippines: the 108-megawatt Subic plant and 105-mw Pinamucan plant in Batangas.

"We are not worried about Enron's (failure, although) Napocor has a build-operate-transfer contract with them, where we are paying them capacity fees," Perez said.

He said prior to the firm's filing for bankruptcy, there had been some discussions about the National Power Corp. or Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. buying out Enron's contract.

Created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, PSALM would assume all of Napocor's financial obligations as of end-2000 and take over all of its disposable assets.

"In our opinion, the events have gone more in favor of PSALM or Napoçor. Negotiations have been ongoing and it's a matter of finding an acceptable discount rate," Perez said.

He added that the government was not under any obligation to buy out.

"But if (Enron) is prepared to offer an attractive discount rate—to discount the future cash flow that it expects to receive from Napocor—then we are prepared to negotiate with them," the secretary said.

He said Enron initially offered 12 percent, but that the government asked for a rate that was "of the high teens."

He refused to give more details.

Industry expert Tatsuo Masuda, meanwhile, expressed optimism despite Enron's failure.

"Enron made unthinkable things possible, but in that course, many companies and individuals learned the know-how that Enron used to enjoy," Masuda said.

Masuda, president of the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Center, is attending an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation seminar on energy sector liberalization.

"After the failure of Enron, there will be many Enrons (that will rise) so I don't think everything is too bad," he said.

New entrants have opportunity just because of Enron's failure, he added.

Senator agrees to revise meat sourcing bill

By Christine A. Gaylican

SEN. Manuel Villar has agreed to revise his proposed bill limiting the country's sources of imported live animals, meat and meat products.

Villar and his wife, Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar, have filed separate bills seeking to limit the country's sources of imported live animals, meat and meat products to countries classified by the Office International des Epizooties as free from the foot-and-mouth disease and where animal vaccination was not practiced.

Livestock raisers and meat processors have had mixed reactions to Villar's proposal.

The bills filed by the Villars will limit the Philippines' sources of meat products to 54 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Germany, Denmark and United States, where frozen meat is more expensive. Excluded are India and South Korea, where the Philippines derives a substantial volume of meat products.

Local meat processors are opposing the Villars' proposals, saying these will merely jack up the prices of their products.

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. warned that should Congress approve these bills, prices of canned and frozen meat products sold in marketplaces and restaurants would go up.

Pampi consists of 38 companies engaged in meat processing, including Jollibee Foods Corp., San Miguel Foods Corp., McGeorge Foods Corp., Pacific Meat Co. and RFM Foods Corp.

The National Federation of Hog Raisers, on the other hand, is supporting the Villars' proposals, saying it will protect the local breed from FMD and boost the industry's earnings.

Senator Villar said his proposal "has not been finalized."

"There are two groups fighting over this issue," he assured. "There would be more public hearings to be conducted."

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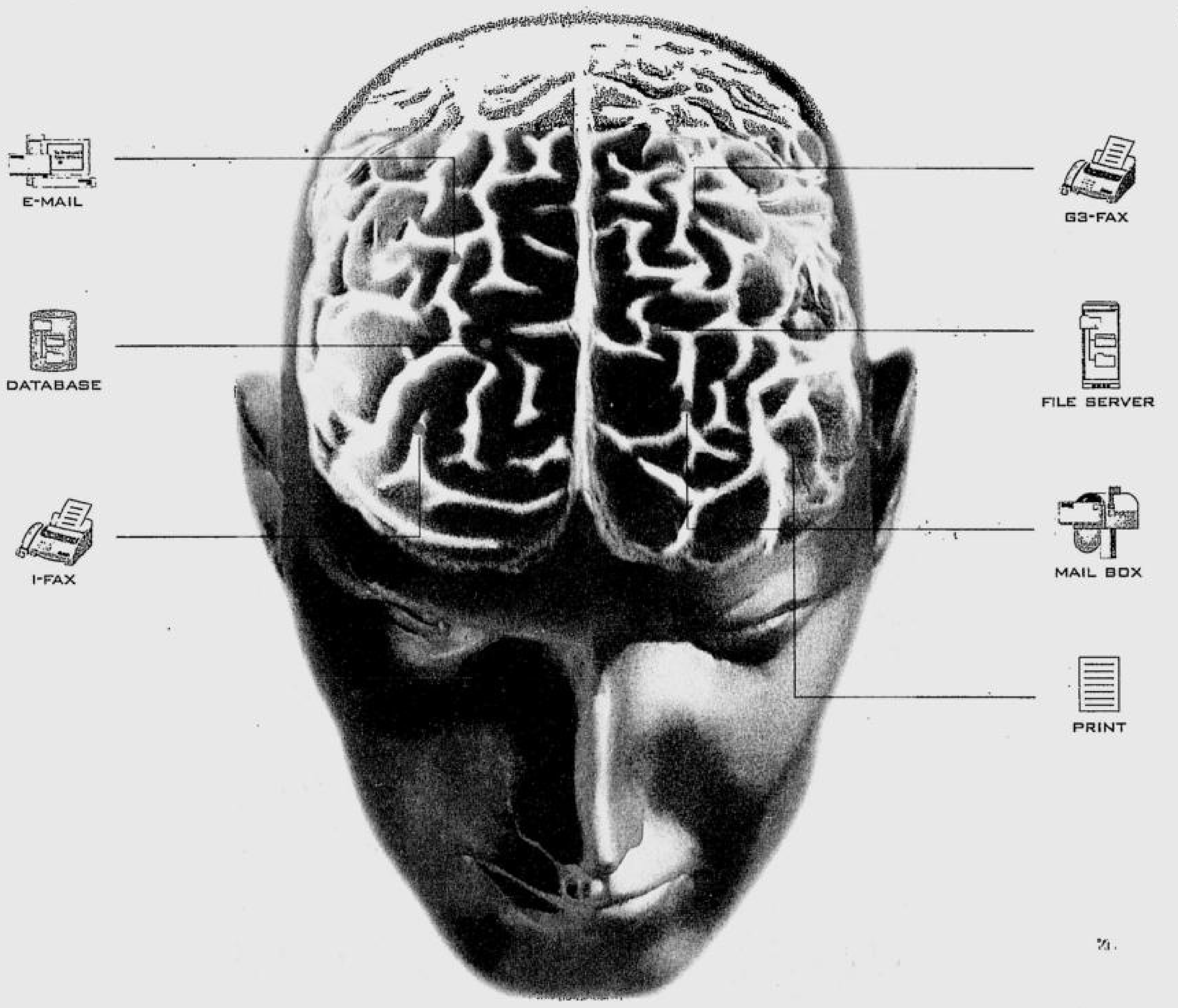

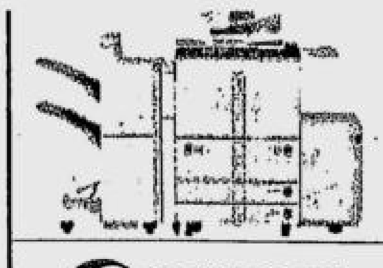

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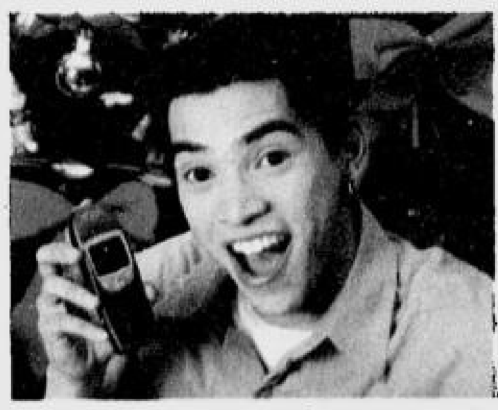

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GMA warned against granting of tariff shield

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries has cautioned the Macapagal administration against granting tariff protection on petrochemical products ahead of the completion of the much-delayed construction of a naphtha cracker project.

FPI chair Raul T. Concepcion said keeping duties of polymers high years before the start of the naphtha cracker's commercial operations would only benefit the petrochemical manufacturers while unduly burdening users of semi-processed plastic goods.

Concepcion said this was tantamount to helping the petrochemical manufacturers raise the money to build the naphtha cracker because high tariffs would force local users to buy local products even though these were more expensive than imports.

"Why should the government grant pre-operative tariffs to select industries? That is unfair. The tariff protection should only be given when the naphtha cracker is already running," Concepcion said.

He suggested that the government should consider granting subsidies rather than higher tariffs. "High tariffs affect everybody unlike subsidies," Concepcion said.

Upon the prodding of local petrochemical players, the Department of Trade and Industry has lobbied in Asean to keep duties on polymers at 15 percent for the next five to 10 years. Duties on polymers or base materials for plastic products are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003 when duties on intra-Asean trade should be kept to no more than 5 percent under the Asean Free Trade Area.

Local petrochemical players led by JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. and Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific have batted for tariff shield from the government to ensure the viability of building a naphtha cracker plant in the country as part of the industry's integration.

The cracker is expected to cost $700 million and will have a capacity of 350,000 to 500,000 metric tons annually which is more than enough to meet present demand and future increases in the Philippines. Due to persistent delays, the cracker's opening has been moved from 2002 to 2004 and up to now, proponents have yet to pass through the planning stage.

GOINGS-ON

New Shell country chair

SANTIAGO

OSCAR S. Reyes, country chair of Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP), has announced the appointment of Eliseo B. Santiago as the new Shell group head beginning Jan. 1, 2002.

Reyes, who has served as SciP chair and chief executive since May 1, 1997, will remain director in the boards of major Shell companies.

Concurrent with his new position as country chair, Santiago will continue to serve as vice president for retail sales and operations for Shell's oil products business in the east zone that includes the Asean countries, Hong Kong, Oman, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Santiago will assume the positions of chair and president of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., president of Shell Gas Eastern Inc., president of Shell Gas Trading (Asia Pacific) Inc., president of Shell Chemicals Philippines Inc., president of Shell Renewables Philippines Corp., president of The Shell Company of the Philippines Limited, managing director of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., and vice chair of Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc.

De Dios named DoE undersecretary

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. recently announced the promotion of J.V. Emmanuel A. de Dios as undersecretary of the Department of Energy (DoE). President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the appointment.

The promotion came three months after De Dios joined the department as assistant secretary. De Dios has been involved in the preparation of the Implementing Rules of the Philippine Electric Power Industry Act of 2001, and in the development of new and renewable energy resources and the emerging natural gas industry. As an undersecretary, De Dios will keep these responsibilities and help strengthen the department's policies and programs.

The 36-year-old De Dios finished his Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School where he was also commencement speaker of his class. He practiced law at the Romulo Mabanta law office and was also liaison officer of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

PSE . . .

(From page B1)

brush up on PSE matters. But if the board felt there was some work which should be done by year's end, he said he would be willing to cut the holidays short.

Leung also said he was not bothered by the fact that he would be serving only for a limited time since a new set of board members would be elected this March.

"It's really up to the board to make a decision. I prefer not to look at it in terms of limited time," he said.

Leung was in government service for more than 36 years until his retirement as DBP chair early this year. He served as assistant finance secretary, then as an undersecretary at the Department of Finance before assuming the post of acting finance secretary in 1993-1994 during the Ramos administration. He was then appointed as president of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. from February 1994 to March 2000.

When President Macapagal assumed office last January, he was named chair of DBP but retired last September to give way to Vitaliano Nañagas.

He is currently a director of the Philippine Economic Society and a fellow of Foundation for Economic Freedom. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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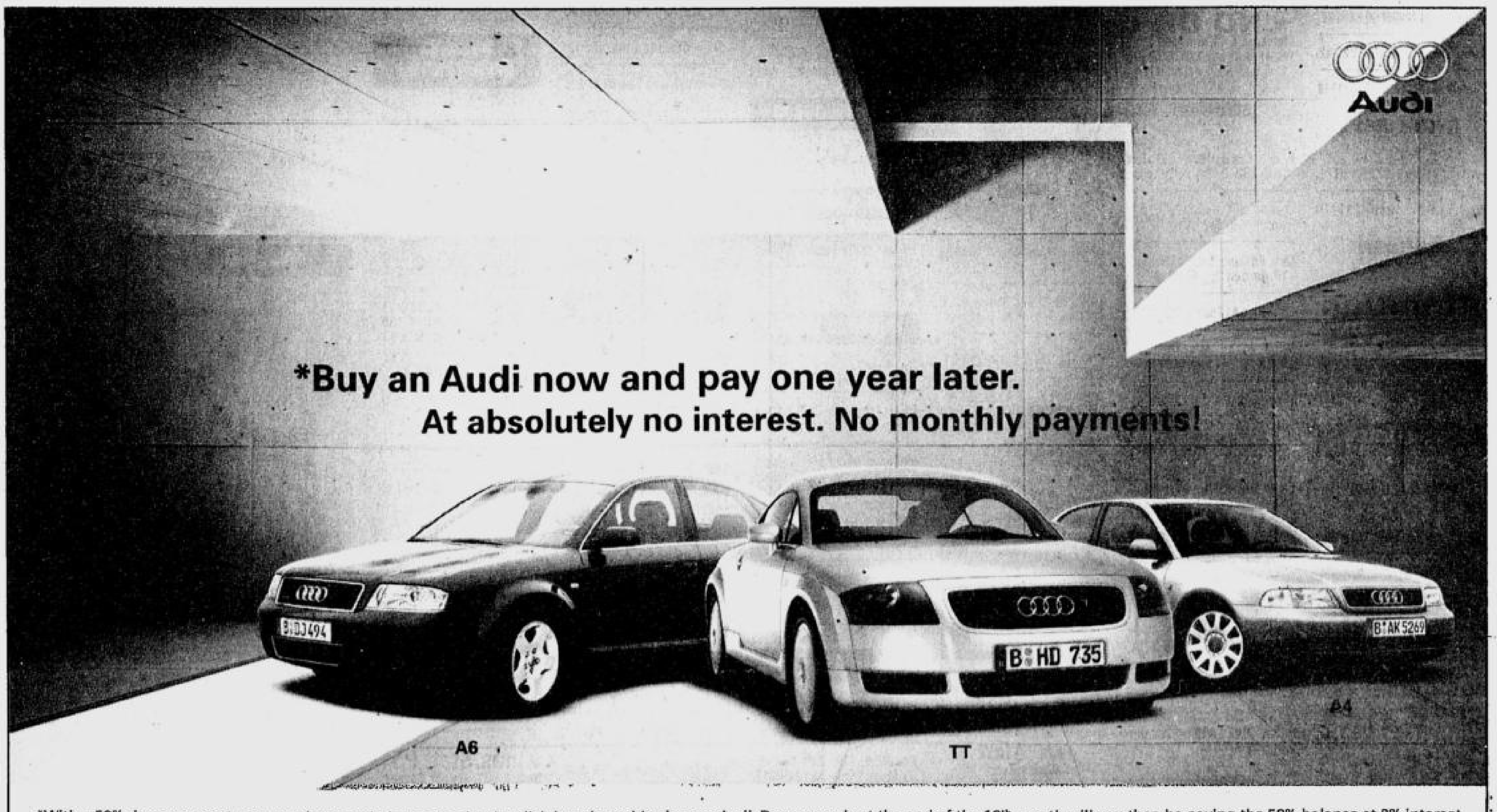

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UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

CAIRO CARLA 716-4898

Edward Reflex 7289285

Healing Touch Massage Bor. Allan 0919-2207320

Mr. NiceGuy/ 09173849954

Reflex 09196658730/8445117

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

Scorpion Massg 4372542

Simeon 4487002/09192401268

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•Adept Tutors @ 8833671

LA LUZ 5268216/70

MISCELLANEOUS

Attention
Professionals and Skilled Workers Immigrate to Canada now FREE qualification assessment send resume via email sara@csi.com.ph for more details Pls Call 638-6707

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

BEST MAIDS 8743305•8743265

•BEST MAIDS W/NBI CALL 421-2938

Cook Maid Yaya Laba 8429807

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya Call: Josie 8737055•8735082

PACIFIC MAIDS ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS Call:Joy•8712372•8722792

Prov'l H'boy Driver w/NBI 8737057

Top agency 8533504•8533505

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 9124706

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-Bahay 801-0759 Cheap

L-Bahay 805-4913 Cheap

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

NEW MLA 260m² @ P22T• 540m² w/hse P8M• 9268552

PROVINCIAL

TUGUEGARAO CITY 271m² with 3stry com'l bldg nr Jollibee Call 668-2658; 911-8679; 0918-5728261

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO BNew Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

406 sqm 3BR 2TB Near Edsa Tel 531-3265; 0919-5236900

MARIKINA

1511sqm 5BR 3TB Pool 4 Car Garage • 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

★ NO DP ★
Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414

QUEZON CITY

6-C Cordillera Galas Call 783-6844 Mariless

Cheap 980T only 260m² nr Rbinson, SMFview 09164747406

Don Enrique 5BR 4TB mqlr +TB garden 2cg 9282497

Loy Hts LA135m² 9282497

Proj3 267m² 2sty 7BR 3TB Rush P3.3M neg 9137916

Timog 493m² P19/m² 9282497

SAN JUAN

LA892m² 5BRs 5TB Pool 4 Car Garage • 634-1212

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni 12T/sqm 645-3731

PASAY

Roxas Blvd. 900m² 90T/sm Call 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160 Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only w/ Complete Facilities RUSH! 9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

N. Domingo 1500m² 20T/m² Call 645-3731

Xavierville 925m² 18T/m² Call 645-3731

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg. Esteban St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
872-7603 871-8318
829-5081 810-7297
810-8019 776-4604
810-7183 815-2144
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to
fortereaIty@skyinet.net

LOT

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors Cavite Light Industrial Park Ready for Construction Php.1,600/m², Along Maguyam road, Carmona, Cavite T 631-2956 - Evelyn

Baguio lots 9282497

Montebello
PRE-SELLING
Own a residential lot for a discounted price
1st come 1st serve
Along Maguyam Rd.
Carmona, Cavite 635-8108 Weng

Southpoint 195m² 6459931

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 3BR2TB 1.6M 8428853

MAKATI

Want a Makati Condo?1.5M 2BR 10%DP Lipat Agad 8674916 5758367 09192176735

3BR 2TB Condo Mdrm 92m² 4M Call 645-3731

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Plaza Katipunan Furnishd 2BR 0917-3955738

FACTORY/WHSE

300sm Warehouse 534-9528

FARM/FISHPEN

Tagaytay farm lot 2688m² 850/m² D.Buyer 802-3474

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

Lot 6 Planet St. Delnor Subd nr Moonwalk Royal South safe concrete call Carmen at Tel 800-7130

MAKATI

2BR SAV Mkt 8992148 Chie

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Boni CT Hall A1 Cdn #12 San Pedro Plainview 532-1382 • 532-8724

PROVINCIAL

Baguio 2BR Rent nr. Brnhm 5314911 loc.165 0919-5864465

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

Scout Area, nr. ABS-CBN 4BR 6T&B 2Pk 258-8019

SAN JUAN

UP 3BR Nr. Sch 7219402 17T

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1,2BR 9652 Pililla Mkt 5218333

2BR 9650 Pililla Mkt 5218333

CITYLAND P. Tamo Twr. Penthouse FF 18T 757-9113 •0917-8334475

Mkt. Studio P8.5up Prkg 8906331

MANILA

2BR 1997 Paco 5218333

NrlaSalle New 3sty3BR 8992148

MANDALUYONG

7Th 2BR Guevent Lib. Mand. 803-5927 ★ 0919-3902506

Govs Place Shaw Blvd Stud Pkg 10T 5348146 0917-8193433

PASIG

Makati/Ortigas 2-3BR 25T-65T/month Call 8828196

VARIOUS AREAS

BRENTVILLE MAMPLASAN 15 MINS FR ALABANG QUIET SAFE 2BR 2 1/2 TB MDSRM & TB AC F/S-FURN FREE USE OF BRENT FACILITIES CALL OFF HRS. 526-4478

FOR LEASE

Room 4Rent Proj4 QC Semi Furn 4218012; 4407109

Warehse, P'que 310m² nr. Coastal Rd, NAIA 258-8019

ROOM & BOARD

w/AC&CR Mktl. 899-2148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

REAL EST. LOAN 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

120sm Ofc Spaces 534-9528

East Capitol Dr. 140m² Workshop / Office 631-9771

Masinag Mkna 50m²&up gud 4 clinic, Lawofc, Bank 2588019

2/F 400m² along Mindanao Ave w/prkg space. Ellen Pineda 4558157/4252763

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'91 BMW 520I 24V Sunroof '17 Mags Trade Ok 721-0317

HYUNDAI

•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

•98H100 P265T 927-6597•

KIA

96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

98Besta 2.7 252T 9276597•

98Pregio 3.0 320T 9276597

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

MITSUBISHI

90 Pajero orig T-8705097

VAN/PICK-UP

Office Container Van 20ft. 4units •8201926•8293409•

OTHER CAR BRANDS

•98Topic 15str 225T 3303325•

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Gas&Diesel Genset,Pison, Plate Compactor,Kubota Tractors 3672002 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

HONDA MB100 8908668

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8279137

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

Van A1-Con 12Str 433-2161

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

SPORTING GOODS

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Partly used Educ 6469097

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

WE BUY **ROLEX**
5633742 5646593 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Aircraft B55 Beechcraft Baron 6 Pass. Fax 02-8509018 For Info

Garage Sale Sala/Dining Decors W.Pump • 634-1212

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Community-Based Resource Management Project
CBRMP

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting interested applicants for 4 vacant positions of:

ACCOUNT ANALYST

(1 each for Regions 5, 7, 8 & 13)

Qualifications:

1. Must hold a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy or related courses
2. Has good working knowledge on government accounting (preferably with at least two years experience)
3. With sufficient background in Foreign- Assisted Projects
4. Must be computer literate
5. Has good communication skills, both oral and written
6. Must be physically fit and of good moral character
7. Able to work well with LGUs and willing to travel to municipalities within the region of assignment

Interested applicants may fax or send by fastest mail/courier their letter of application, resume, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo on or before December 14, 2001 to the CBRMP regional office they wish to work with:

Region 5
Regional Coordinator
CBRMP Project
ANST Building Washington Drive
Legaspi City
Tel. Fax # (053) 481-09-27

Region 7
Regional Coordinator
5/Floor BF Building N. Escario Street,
Cebu City
Tel. Fax # (032) 255-77-49

Region 8
Regional Coordinator
Timo Romano Real Street
Sagkahan District
Tacloban City
Tel. Fax # (053) 523-42-54

Region 13
Regional Coordinator
3/F Aguilar Building,
Pili Drive Butuan City
Tel. Fax # (085) 815-03-20

POSSIBLE U.S. JOBS FOR NURSES

No Recruitment Fee • Direct Hire
(IMMIGRANT STATUS)
Pacific Home Health
Call **Leah**
Cel. No. **0917-4757071** or **(072) 720-0280**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Domestic Helper 5623962

Single Dentist #19 Imperial St QC 9134082 9AM-5PM

Wanted: Yaya/ Hse Maids Family Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

OFC STAFF 9328082 DAN

Off Staff 18-45 years old T-9134470 Look 4 Ms Barte

PHARMACIST PREF SUCAT RESDNT 8253245 JELLEN

Sec Coll Grad with pleas. personality Tel 9517880/81

•Urgent! OFC STAFF / SEC Start ASAP! 9134470 Hazel•

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BAZAAR-MALL SPACES 4 RENT 633-9662 ★ 633-9295

Candle Making 0917-4572623

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178311728

Who Do You Know In Baguio? TRAVEL & EARN •0743002262 09175064388•

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL09196889156

RESTAURANT 4 Sale
Ortigas Center. Pls. call 6422813; 0917-6118490 for inquiries

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

TShirts 0917-9976742

WANTED
Wholesaler & Retailer
Tel. 8202777/09198669171

WE BUY LANDBANK BOND
Agrarian Reform 10-Yr. Bond 643-5529; 0917-7922363 Ver

Work from Home w/Travel Opportunities 8937903

Xmas Stall P5T
Dec. 1 - 21, Indoor Bazaar
Dec. 22- June P3T/mo Only Super Tiangge, East Ave (across LTO) QC T-9257212 9257365 Cel 09178480612

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **ROBERTO P. VALDEZ** is extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc.#158, Page#33, Book#44, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco.
(PDI-Nov. 21, 28 & Dec. 5, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Omar A.Mustari was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc.#1128 Page#225 Book#V Series of 2001 of Not. Public Atty. Ombawa B. Madum Lanao Sur.
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5 & 12, 2001)

The estate of the late Basilia de Castro Fong was Extrajudicially Settled among her heirs Daisy DC Fong, Rossalia DC Fong, and Walter DC Fong on 11/16/01 under Doc. #35, Page#8, Bk#X, S-2001 of Notary Public Antonio Antonio G. Yao
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5&12,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following certificates of stock issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of **Sonia G. Mathay**, Certificate of Stock Nos. 194, 195, 196, 197, 200, 214, 227, 240 and 273 representing a total of 54,683 shares have been lost. If no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. Thou who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dia logue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Pray for 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After the 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. - **BCA, Jr.**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dia logue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Thank you also St. Anthonyr granting my petition-OFELIA & PEEBEE

ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of BIRCI, the scheduled raffle draw of **"Kotseng Pamasko, Grand Raffle 2001"** on **December 7, 2001** has been moved to **March 15, 2002** at 5:30 PM at the Patio, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. For further clarification call: **912-0498.**

(PDI - Dec. 5 & 6, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Change of Name in the Certificate of Live Birth Ma. Angelie C. Orocio

Petition Entry No. ________

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that MA. ANGELIE C. OROCIO has filed with this Office a petition for **CHANGE OF FIRST NAME FROM "MA. SOPHIE" to "MA. ANGELIE"** in the **CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH** of **MA. ANGELIE C. OROCIO.**

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of this petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of national circulation. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office.

(Sgd.) **LEO G. WABE**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: a) supply of labor and materials for the INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL SYSTEM & b) One (1) year contract for JANITORIAL SERVICES.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

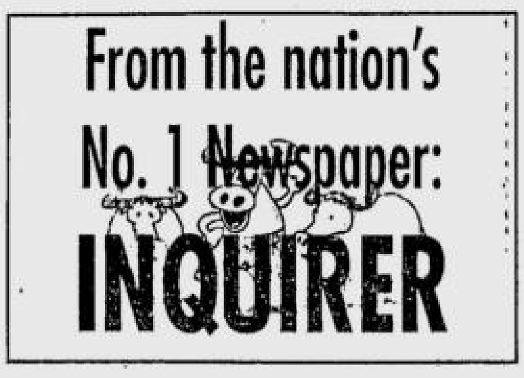
1. Letter of intent/co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

**for add'l requirement, pls inquire at purchasing div. @ 922-05-74 & look for noemi* All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before a) Dec. 14, 2001 & b) Dec. 7, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Nov. 27, 28, 29 & Dec. 3, 4 & 5, 2001)


From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG. ☐176 ARROCEROS STREET ☐1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance of RA 7041

EVALUATION INVESTIGATION GROUP

Administrative Adjudication Bureau

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICE: I, Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-63-1998, OMBA-GIO1-66-1998; SG-26, Education: Bachelor of Laws, Experience: Three years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work, Traning: None required, Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR).

Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau

SECRETARY II, Item No. OMBA-SEC2-1-1998, SG-9, Education: Completion of two years studies in college, Experience: One year of relevant experience, Training: 4 hours of relevant training, Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

FACT-FINDING, INTELLIGENCE & RESEARCH OFFICE

Fact-finding and Intelligence Bureau

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II, Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO2-11-1998, OMBA-AGIO2-12-1998, SG-18; Education: Bachelor of Laws, Experience: Six months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work, Training: 8 hours of relevant training, Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR) OR Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Experience: One year of experience in conducting community work, system studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work, Training: 8 hours of relevant training, Eligibility: Career Service (Professional); Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Monitoring and EDP Division

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER III, Item No. OMBA-COMPRO3-1-1998, SG-18, Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Experience: Two years of relevant experience, Training: 8 hours of relevant training, Eligibility: Career Service (Professional); Second Level Eligibility.

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Assistant Ombudsman

DRIVER II, Item No. OMBA-DRV2-4-1999, SG-4, Education: Elementary School Graduate, Experience: None required, Training: None required, Eligibility: Driver License (MC 11,s. 96-Cat. II)

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Office of the Assistant Ombudsman

DRIVER II, Item No. OMBA-DRV2-6-1999, SG-4, Education: Elementary School Graduate, Experience: None required, Training: None required, Eligibility: Driver License (MC 11,s. 96-Cat. II)

FACT-FINDING, INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH OFFICE

Office of the Assistant Ombudsman

DRIVER II, Item No. OMBA-DRV2-5-1999, SG-4, Education: Elementary School Graduate, Experience: None required, Training: None required, Eligibility: Driver License (MC 11,s. 96-Cat. II)

Interested applicants should submit on or before December 17, 2001 to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address an application letter stating the position and item number applied for duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212), "1x1" picture (colored), Certificate of Eligibility, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and Certifications from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

GIA

THAILAND CAMPUS

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Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute

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NO artistic training or experience required

Next Jewelry Design Class starts January 28, 2002

GIA Thailand Campus

Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

Repubilka ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PILIPINAS 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the Bureau of Elementary Education is inviting all interested printers for the Printing and Delivery of 36,000 copies of Developing Readiness Skills for the use of Preschool Program, which is to be implemented in the twenty (20) SRA divisions. The approved budget for this program is P2,700,000.00.

All interested printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents **December 5, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at http://www.decs.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 13, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 20, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

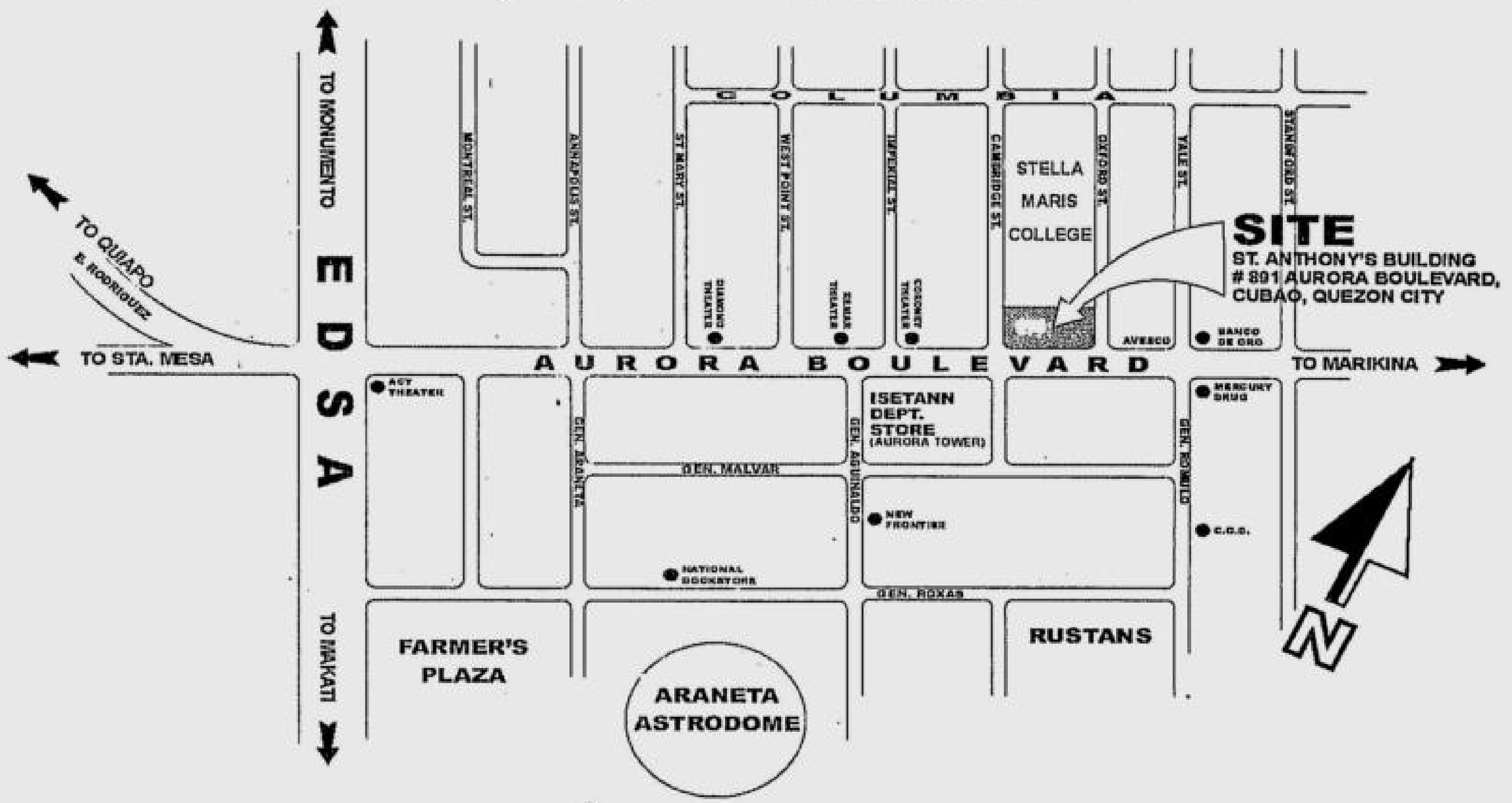
DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI -- Dec. 5 & 6, 2001)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

[illegible]

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 985-2691
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7818
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7462
Fax No. (035) 255-1162
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180
Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
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Bajada, Davao City
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OBITUARIES

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

ERNANI GAERLAN-YANGO

(wife of **Ambassador Alejandro Yango**)
of Imus, Cavite and Honolulu, Hawaii

Died in the Grace of our Lord on Thursday, November 29, 2001 at the age of 83.

Services were held in Honolulu, Hawaii last December 3, 2001.

Readers and friends are requested to please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:10

FRANCISCA C. CRUZ

of Baliwag Bulacan and Corinthian Gardens

Peacefully joined her Creator on December 2, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her loving husband **Aurelio** (†); children **Norma & Francisco M. Danao, Alexander** (†) **& Marylou Kowalski, Doris & Mario S. Espiritu**; grandchildren **Ma. Theresa & Enrico G. Camara, Roberto & Kristina Cruz, Christie, Cheryl & Charlyn Espiritu**; grandchild **Kiwi Alejandro D. Camara**; brother **Simeon Celeste**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, December 7, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park-Crematorium, Marikina City after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

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OBITUARIES

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12:00 noon
Day before publication

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of

Bangko Kabayan
Ibaan Rural Bank, Inc.

extend their condolences to the family of

GERARDO "GJ" O. OZAETA, JR.

Member, Board of Directors (1989 - present)

beloved son of Chairman of the Board, **Gerardo H. Ozaeta**
and brother of Director **Gregorio O. Ozaeta**.

who joined his Creator and dear mother **Rosario O. Ozaeta**
on December 3, 2001 at the age of 38.

His ashes will be placed at the St. Joseph Chapel of St. John the Baptist Church, Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila where offerings of prayers and Masses will be received by the family.

His interment at the Parish Ossuary will be on Thursday, December 6, 2001 after a Mass at 10:00 AM.

Our Beloved Mother of Retailing

Ms. CORAZON A. SANTOS

Has joined her Creator at 7:30 a.m., 03 December 2001
at the age of 76.

May her disciples at the
Retail Technology Institute of the Phils. (RTIP) and Plaza Fair
continue working towards the realization of her vision
for Plaza Fair to be the best in Philippine retailing.
Her ashes lies at St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri
(Magallanes Church - Chapel 1) from December 4 to 6, 2001.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,
Though I walk in the valley of darkness,
I fear no evil, for God is with me."

LUCY ANTOINETTE (Lucy Anne) ASIDDAO ESQUIVIAS

June 13, 1955 - December 3, 2001

Her beloved husband **SIXTO V (QUINTO)**; children **Julian Paulo (Yboy)**, **Joaquin Pablo (Jop)**, **Julia Anna Michaela (Juami)** and **Joahnna Pia (Jopi)**; mother **Fe**; her siblings **Jet**, **Judy**, **Vincent** and **Mike**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Lucy Anne lies in state at the
Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 8, 2001
after the 9:00 AM Funeral Mass.

PEDRO B. MANAYON
"Pete"

Peacefully joined our Heavenly Father
on December 1, 2001 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at
Ellinwood Malate Church, Vasquez Street,
Malate, Manila.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat on December 5, 2001 at 3:30 PM.
There will be a memorial service at
1:00 PM at Ellinwood Malate Church
on December 5, 2001.

In Precious Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

SUSANA DUMARAN ALBAR

May 24, 1938 - December 5, 2000

Holy Masses:

Espiritu Santo Church	-	Tayuman, Manila - 6:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church	-	Sta. Mesa, Manila - 6:00 p.m.
St. Jude Church	-	San Miguel, Manila - 6:30 a.m.
Special Services	-	Sacampong's Residence, Mangagoy, Bislig, Surigao del Sur - 4:00 p.m.

Lovingly remembered by Husband **Romeo Sr.**; Children **Daphne-Gedeon**, **Romeo Jr. - Dina**, **Emelyn**, **Emmanuel**; Grandchildren **Meg**, **Nine**, **Bang**, **Lyk**, **Onie**, **Gan**, **Yok**, **Gong**, **Ging**, **Bles**; Sisters and Brothers.

To all who knew him in life

MAXIMINO "BOY" NEPOMUCENO SENA

Passed away on December 2, 2001
at the age of 48.

To ease the pain of our loss, please join us in remembering our many happy memories of **Boy**. Thank you, **Boy** for bringing light and laughter to all of us. We will miss you deeply.

His bereaved wife **Rose**; daughter **Vivienne**; sister **Marinela**; brothers **Jose Quirino** and **Mario**; cousin **Teresita**; parents-, brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews and all family and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 8, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the Mass at 1:00 PM.

Engr. FELIZARDO A. ALARKON, JR.

of Naga City

Former City Engineer of Iriga,
Deputy Director of Bicol River Basin

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 4, 2001
at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Alice**; children **Othmar** and **Jai**, **Bernadette** and **Rex**, **Roy** and **Grace**; together with grandchildren, sisters, brothers, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Imperial, Naga City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROMUALDO R. OASAN

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 30, 2001 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Catalina**; children **Lani**, **Rudy**, **Henry**, and **Albert**; son-in-law **Victor**; daughters-in-law **Suzie**, **Noelle**, and **Cel**; grandchildren **Anthony**, **Junjun**, **Jap**, and **Ken**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Monday, December 10, 2001 at the Candon Catholic Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at San Juan de Sahagun Parish.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (075) 522-3451, 522-2128, Cell (0917) 434-9076
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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
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Tels. 346-2543, 346-2661
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels. 231-0721, 231-3182
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Extension corner J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Avenue corner Dinalupihan Street, Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133 • Fax 711-3084
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna Street, Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
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Tels. (075) 515-5060, 515-6579, (0919) 348-7131
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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Honda website takes on new look

HONDA Cars Philippines recently launched an all-new website that boasts of a fresh and creative new design and easy-to-navigate layout. The fully revitalized www.hondaphil.com contains new features such as preventive maintenance schedules for the City, Civic, CR-V and Accord models; downloadables (screensavers, wallpapers and images in different resolutions); and special sales transactions for fleet, diplomat or expatriates, and direct importation.

Visitors are pampered with a comprehensive product presentation per model, from specifications/features, colors available, accessories and photo galleries. Honda's Competitive Comparison, which has been offered in its website since 1997, allows prospective car buyers to evaluate a specific Honda model against its competitor in terms of engine/displacement, dimension, safety, comfort, suspension, brakes and dealer options. This page gives unbiased direct comparison of Honda cars with its counterparts in other car brands.

For those wanting to buy or sell a pre-owned Honda unit, the site offers business opportunities at the buy and sell page, where Honda owners can post their ads for free to individuals wanting to buy pre-owned Honda units. The site also includes news and updates to keep the public well informed on Honda's latest promotions, technological breakthroughs, event and activities, among others.

The dealer locator, which lists all authorized dealerships nationwide and includes links to the nearest dealer, is just a click away. What's more, buyers can stay at the comfort of their own homes or offices while they reserve a Honda car online. "Talk to Us" provides a communication line where customers can inquire, request or comment on just about anything concerning Honda, its products and services.

To get a first-hand view of Honda's new website, visit www.hondaphil.com now.

Philippine Marketing Association, Inc.

PMA SEMINAR

The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) recently conducted the 'Consumer Analysis and Marketing Research Seminar' which featured comprehensive discussions on consumer behavior, product and customer satisfaction studies, marketing analysis and other issues of vital interest to today's marketers. The three-day seminar was facilitated by top caliber resource speakers, namely: Dr. Ben Paul Gutierrez, chair of the Business Administration Department of the University of the Philippines; Jun Alcantara, vice president for marketing of Asia Brewery; Darrah Estrada, managing director of Taylor Nelson Sofres and Germaine Reyes, managing director of Synergy Business Consultancy. The seminar was attended by participants from the marketing, advertising, public relations, sales management and direct marketing industries. Shown are the seminar participants together with Marivic Anunuevo, PMA vice president for education (first row, center).

JUICO OATHTAKING

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. (extreme right), administered the oath of office of former Agrarian Reform Secretary and now Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC) 13 vice-chair Philip Ella Juico (second from right) as chair of the National Social Action Council (Nasac) recently at the chief magistrate's office. Looking on are (from left) Col. Artemio Rodriguez, Nasac executive director; Sonia Saldivar-Ronda, Nasac vice chair for private sector and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) director, and Margarita P. Juico, wife of the incoming Nasac chair. Nasac is a multi-sector, non-governmental, and non-sectarian volunteer organization created under Executive Order 182-2A on May 1, 1969. As an independent institution composed of representatives from the government, private/business sector and the church/interfaith sectors, Nasac is committed to promote national solidarity through sustained trisectoral support in the implementation of social and economic development programs. Nasac counts 115 member-organizations and associations drawn from the three sectors as its partners.

NCWP's value-formation workshop for women leaders nationwide

YAO

WE are witnesses to the many social ills plaguing the country – apathy and distrust, graft and corruption, lack of discipline, dishonesty and lack of integrity, dwindling spirit of nationalism, abandonment of the environment and many more. Studies have shown that these social ills have served to negate society's growth and development. Women, the vital partners, implementors and beneficiaries of development, are the ones hardest hit by the chronic problems affecting society. This situation has given rise to the urgent needs to address the problem of ethical and moral decadence. In response, the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) led by Commissioner Myrna T. Yao, under the Commission of Women and Moral Recovery, convened and chaired by Alice Miranda and co-chaired by Dr. Ramona Rañeses, spearheaded a seminar-workshop on value formation and education for women leaders nationwide.

With the theme "Strengthening Ethical and Moral Standards of Women Leaders", the seminar-workshop focused on the individual person, on the enhancement of her values through a process of self-examination, visualization and reality analysis. It aims to clarify the operative values of the participants by inculcating in them chosen values, by improving their capability to be catalysts of change and development, by fostering better relations among them and by developing their skills as trainors in value formation and education in the region.

NCWP's national adviser on moral recovery former Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani delivered the keynote speech. Resource speakers included Tina Monzon-Palma of the ABS-CBN News Channel, CHED Chair Dr. Esther Garcia, Tingting Cojuangco, and environmentalist Narda Camacho.

The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Higher Education are endorsing the activity to women leaders. The event was held Nov. 22 to 23 at the Camelot Hotel. For details on NCWP, call the NCWP Secretariat at 731-8488/732-5141 to 47 local 14.

th
National
Public Relations

PRSP GUEST SPEAKER

Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, chair and chief executive officer of Planters Development Bank, spoke before members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines in its recent general membership meeting at Dusit Hotel in Makati. Ambassador Tambunting enlightened PR practitioner on the role of SMEs as a potent force in national development. Shown is Gen. Honesto Isleta, PRSP president, presenting a token of appreciation to Ambassador Tambunting. The event also marked the formal launching of PRSP's 37th Anvil Awards, an annual competition that recognizes outstanding PR programs.

Association, Inc.
AGORA

MARKETING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

After having been selected as Outstanding Employer of the Year by the Personnel Management of the Philippines and cited in national survey of Philippine corporations on employment policies, United Laboratories was adjudged Marketing Company of the Year in the 2001 Agora Awards of the Philippine Marketing Association. Unilab president-COO Carlos C. Ejercito (second from right) holds the award presented during the rites held in Makati City, while being greeted by PMA president Jose Jesus F. Roces (second from left). With them are Bienvenido Policarpio, PMA awards overall chair and Von Hizon (right), PMA director-in-charge. The award hailed Unilab's 'versatile and innovative' marketing policies and strategies, which boosted its leadership in the Philippine pharmaceutical industry.

Prego Spaghetti sauces, in 4

NOW in the Philippines, Campbell's proudly introduces the new supreme range of Prego Spaghetti Sauces in four delicious variants of rich, thick and finest blend of selected herbs and spices. Pasta lovers can now choose and enjoy Prego's Traditional Spaghetti Sauce, made from luscious sun-ripened tomatoes seasoned with aromatic herbs for the most traditional Italian eating experience--perfect for a simple and appealingly provocative dish. Prego Mushroom Sauce is a chunky tomato-based sauce blended with chopped mushroom for added flavor that's truly enticing and enriching. Prego Tomato Basil and Garlic, juicy tomatoes tossed with garlic and chopped basil for thick sauce of supreme quality, is the perfect pasta sauce with lingering taste on the palate. Prego Cheese and Herbs is the first white sauce in the market in deliciously rich sauce bursting with creamy flavor and taste that will leave a luscious feel in the mouth. Savor the melted cheese combined with the fragrant herbs drizzled generously on your favorite pasta.

Prego Spaghetti Sauces offer pasta lovers the solution to quick, easy yet satisfying pasta meals for the whole family to enjoy. And just like any other Campbell's product, Prego sauces have the hearty homemade taste that everyone loves. This Christmas, make sure Prego Spaghetti Sauces is in your grocery list.

LPHI BREAKS NEW GROUND IN ANTIPOLO CITY

Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI), an Ayala Land, Inc. subsidiary, is all geared up for its major expansion plans with its upcoming and first-ever project in the northern Metro Manila area. Totalling 21 hectares of rolling terrain, the project in Antipolo City will be composed of two exclusive house and lot residential subdivisions. As part of its grand community masterplan, the residential area will have firest class amenities such as a clubhouse, central park, picnic area with gazebo, swimming pool, basketball court, and 24-hour security with housing units using the world-class building system. Present during the groundbreaking ceremony were (L-R) Ricardo P. Isla, LPHI senior vice-president, Manual J. Colayco, Jr., LPHI president, Antonio A. Lopa, and Evelyn C. Solis, LPHI assistant vice-president.

BITS Clips

Zumwalt's risk managements seminar

ZUMWALT

DR. Kent Zumwalt, professor of Business Finance from Murdoch University (Perth, Western Australia) conducts a seminar titled "Risk Management in a Competitive Environment". The venue will be at the 26th floor of the Ayala Life FGU Building, IIAP Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati on Dec. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. and will be free of charge for the first 20 participants. Dr. Zumwalt has just finished facilitating the four-week business finance module of the Manila MBA program of Murdoch University. For details, call 844-2812 or 887-6391.

CFS' training trainers seminar

CFS Continental Technology offers its "Training the Trainer" seminar this month. The seminar is a short-course workshop designed to equip supervisors and managers with skills through modules on Customer Service, Creative Selling and Telemarketing in view of their short-and long-term objectives. "Customer Service That Works" is on Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., "Telemarketing that Sells" is on Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and "The Challenge of Creative Selling" is on Dec. 14, 1 to 5 p.m. For more details, call 8234825 or 8232358.

PSME Christmas party and induction

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Mechanical Engineers will hold its Christmas party and induction of 2002 national officers and directors on Dec. 7 at the Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City at 7 p.m. All PSME members are invited. For particulars and reservations, call the PSME secretariat at 372-4341; 371-1820 and 371-1819.

Museo Pambata storytelling hours

REVEL in the Christmas spirit of the Holiday season with these featured storytellers of Museo Pambata's PBBY Storytelling Hour. On Dec. 7: Evangeline Elvina of the Shekinah Christian Church; On Dec. 14: Marissa Bagunas of Belgosa Publishing Damath magazine; Dec. 21: Marilyn Gutierrez of All Together for Dignity Fourth World. Storytelling hour is from 10-11 a.m., Friday's at Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. For inquiries, call 523-1797.

Caterplan
NEW WORLD
RENAISSANCE HO

CULINARY GRAND PRIX 2001 WINNERS LAUDED

Caterplan vice president Steve Moore (extreme right) presented the CGP2001 winners during the launching ceremonies of the CGP2002 held recently at the New World Hotel Grand Ballroom. Moore enjoined the school administrators and representatives of more than 49 schools who graced the event to join the nationwide culinary-trade competition. CGP2002 winners stand to receive cash, products and an all expense paid trip to Singapore to witness the Salon Culinaire competition. Shown (from left) is Chantal Marie Cena, Maigie Atienza, Emerald Sarmiento, (St. Scholastica, catering competition), Ma. Kristine Bella, Anna Marie Victoria, (St. Scholastica, edible centerpiece), Francis Austria (Lyceum of the Philippines, waitering skills) with team advisers Lorenzo Rojo (waitering) and Amelia Tuble (catering).

Risk analysis seminar

TODAY'S global and market economy offers almost limitless prospects for businesses to create wealth. But these prospects are accompanied by additional risks, such as foreign exchange and interest rate risks, as international market forces increasingly determine currency exchange rates, prices for goods and services, and valuations of financial assets. These concerns are addressed in the seminar of the Development Center for Finance entitled Financial and Quantitative Techniques for Risk Analysis and Management. The seminar will be held on Dec. 7 and 8 at the College of Business Administration of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call Jenny at 920-8025; 928-4571 to 76 local 2156, or e-mail dcf.cba@up.edu.ph.

PDC brings 5S to barangays

THE PRODUCTIVITY and Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines (PDC-DAP) invites all local government officials to its Seminar on Barangay 5S to be held Dec. 5 and 6 at the Audio-Visual Room, 6th floor of the DAP Conference Center, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-2119 or 631-2123 and look for Beth Carandang or Thess Agustin.

USTGSAA homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Graduate School Alumni Association (USTGSAA) announces the holding of the Grand Alumni Homecoming and General Elections on Dec. 6 at the Quezon City Sports Club. The annual event opens at 6 p.m. For tickets and info, Dr. Mercedes M. Leuterio, president of the USTGSAA, can be reached at the UST Graduate School, España, Manila at 740-9732.

'Good-to-great' is great!

By Regina Galang Reyes

FLASHPOINT

WHO can argue with five years worth of research by a team composed of 21 researchers headed by "Built to Last" co-author, Jim Collins? The findings are controversial, to say the least, and described in Collin's "a spade is a spade" type of prose.

I am referring to Jim Collin's latest book, "Good to Great," which he says is not a sequel to "Built to Last" but a prequel. When Jim Collins gave me a copy of the manuscript months ago (but it has since been released last October in the US and is now available at National Book Store), I knew I was holding a precious treasure trove of wisdom. When I read it, it felt like it was everything we wanted to tell our CEOs but didn't have the nerve or the proof to do so. And now, we had.

Courage

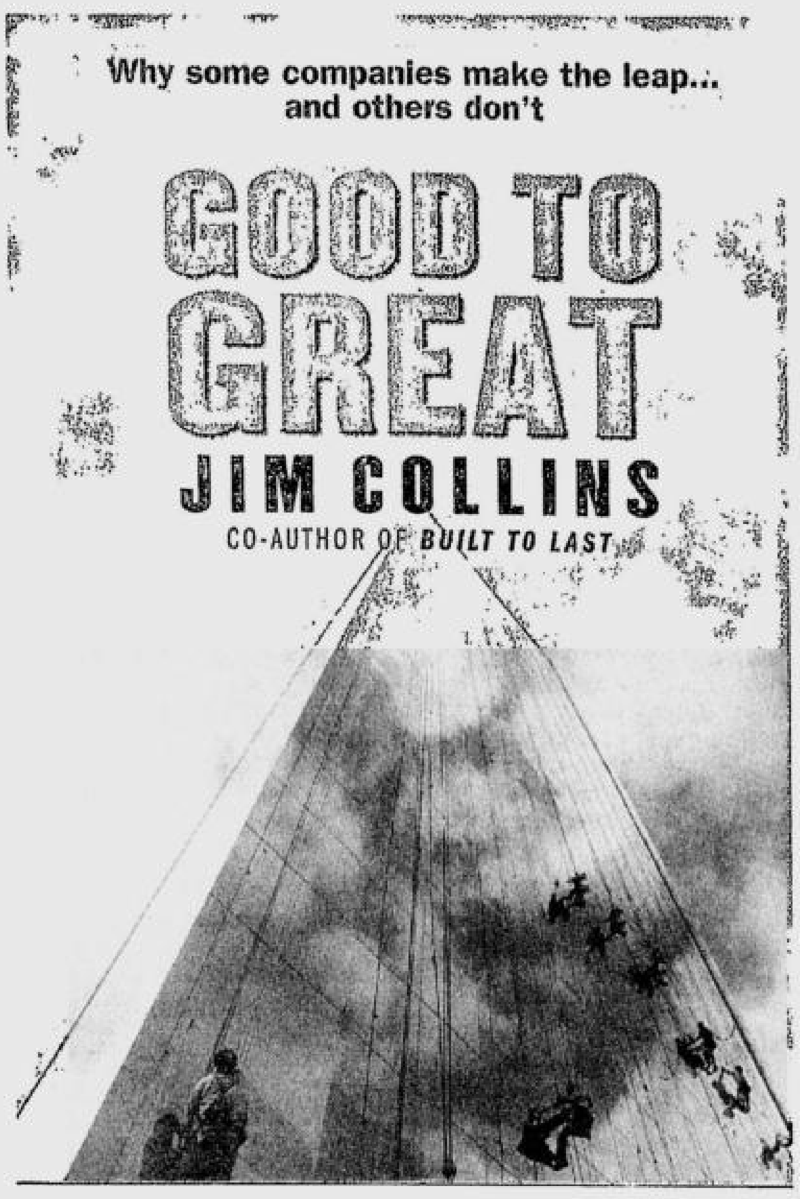
Collins was right in pondering, "How much would someone pay me *not* to publish Good to Great?" as he related in the book's preface. For it debunked much of the gloss of flashy leaders and shiny companies frequently written about in business newspapers and magazines nowadays.

Just coming up with the list of good-to-great companies took much work and courage. Consider the criteria: the companies should have made the leap from good results to great results and sustained those results for at least 15 years. The final list included companies that averaged cumulative stock returns 6.9 times the general market in 15 years following their transition from good-to-great. And surprise—the final list had companies that, in the words of Collins, were "utterly unremarkable."

And what companies made the list? Don't wonder if the names are unfamiliar. They are: Abbott, Circuit City, Fannie Mae, Gillette, Kimberly-Clark, Kroeger, Nucor, Philip Morris, Pitney Bowes, Walgreens and Wells Fargo.

Great care

These companies were compared with other companies that were in the same industry as the good-to-great companies with the same opportunities and similar resources at the time of transition but made no leap from good to great. Coming out with this list again took much work and courage. I am sure none of these companies would have wanted to be categorized as such. And what companies made this list? Don't be amazed if the names are familiar. They are Upjohn, Silo, Great Western, Warner-Lambert, Scott Paper, A&P, Bethlehem Steel, RJ Reynolds, Addressograph, Eckerd and Bank of America.


Why some companies make the leap...
and others don't
GOOD TO GREAT
JIM COLLINS
CO-AUTHOR OF BUILT TO LAST

Because of its groundbreaking findings, Collins has taken care to state that "... we developed all the concepts in the book by making *empirical* deductions *directly from the data*. We did not begin this project with a theory to test or prove. We sought to build a theory from the ground up, derived directly from the evidence."

Framework

The Good-to-Great Framework developed by Collins contains seven basic concepts that intertwine people, thought and actions with discipline (a favorite word) in what he calls a "flywheel" that brings the good company from buildup to breakthrough.

The first one on leadership is a shocker (but I think this is what we know to be true really based on gut feel from those below the organizational ladder). Collins says that the type of leadership that is required for turning a good company into a great one is one based on humility and professional will. In fact, the high profile leaders seem not to have good chance at leading great companies. He calls this type of leadership "Level 5 Leadership."

The second concept is somewhat like putting the cart before the horse type of logic. He writes that good-to-great companies first concentrated on getting the right people with the organization and then determined where to go.

Basic

The third concept is so basic that one may be tempted to say it's a motherhood statement. Only that this one is supported by a lot of documents. Collins writes that a good-to-great company "never loses faith" and has the discipline to "confront the brutal facts."

The fourth concept is, in layman's terms, being dogged. Collins calls this "The Hedgehog Concept." He writes that a good-to-great company determines what it can do best in the world and then sticks to it. Passion, a word now slowly entering the language of business management, is key to this concept.

The fifth concept is about having a culture of discipline. With discipline, good-to-great companies have no need for bureaucracy.

The sixth concept is about technology accelerators. Unlike the usual trend of thought, Collins points out that technology does not ignite a corporate transformation. But a careful selection of the appropriate technologies can accelerate growth.

Change

The last concept is about change management. Collins notes that dramatic organizational programs "almost certainly" will guarantee that a good company will not turn great. Rather, he points out that becoming good to great is a relentless pushing step by step towards breakthrough.

These are intriguing findings indeed—discoveries that even Collins and his team found hard to accept, ingrained as we all are with the latest management fads and pet projects of the time. But with every concept put forward or statement given, Collins takes pains in outlining all the detailed work and evidence behind them.

The wonder of it all is how Collins was able to distill such insights from a huge mountain of data over such an extended period of time. And to credit the whole work, appropriately, to the whole team who created this monumental work. There lies his greatness, perhaps.

(Next week, the making of "Good to Great.")

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10 better ways to celebrate Christmas at work

LAST week, we asked for sizzling suggestions on how a company can celebrate Christmas in tune with the times. Here's a harvest of ten better ways.

Christmas is celebrated by both Christians and non-Christians, even during peace and war times. So why not during recession or even God forbid, depression?

Celebrating Christmas need not be an expensive affair. We don't need five-star preparation to feel blessed by the Child whose birthday we celebrate. Most offices have scaled down the financial aspect of the holiday party. First of all, the usual '*monito/monita*' or secret pal gift exchange does not have to involve money at all. The usual object of this game is to provide your secret pal with a simple gift, culminating with a bigger one on the day of revelation. This time, instead of gifts, why not serve your secret pal? Service may come in different ways. Some examples: cleaning of that person's desk, sharpening his pencil in case he uses one, or tidying some area of his work table before or after office hours.

Lavish parties can be done away with. *Merienda* may be served instead. Filipino food brings out nostalgia in most people and will benefit the small entrepreneurs who are in this trade. In lieu of expensive office decor, a meaningful saying with a lighted candle posted at a conspicuous place and focusing on the essence of Christmas may be used as the main decoration.

The absence of materialism, lavish spending and an orgy of eating and drinking in this joyous occasion, is what we need to remind us that God saved us from the rightful wrath of His justice.

Christmas is the celebration of Christ in us; it is the celebration of a new life.

**Lilibeth Po Quezon St.,
Iloilo City**

During Christmas time, people usually find fulfillment in giving and sharing with others what they have. I would like therefore to suggest this activity to celebrate Christmas.

Instead of having a party and spending our money for our own self-satisfaction, I think it is better to visit orphanages and other similar institutions, interact with the less fortunate people and bring them Christmas gifts. Each employee of the company may be requested to give voluntary contributions in any form, money or items (new or used), which the beneficiaries need. A party may be held in these institutions with both the employees and the beneficiaries.

Lorna S. Marcoso

The best way for a company to celebrate the season is to hold a Christmas party with orphans, old people or with a charitable institution of their choice.

The employees should dress casually and each one of them shall be assigned to a guest with whom he will stay with the whole night. A week or two before the party, the name of the assigned guest and the gift that he wants (with specification as to the size, design, color) must be submitted to the employee who picked his name. The gift should be given to the partner guest during the party where they will dance, play and eat together.

I believe this will be relevant to the season and the times, and at the same time, meaningful to the company, employees and the orphans.

Pachot V. Garcia

It has always been a tradition to hold Christmas parties. But last year, to make it more meaningful, our company organized an outreach program. Selected offices chose an institution (an orphanage or home for the aged) where they—both officers and employees—spent half a day with them in the true Christmas party fashion. And this worked both ways as everybody came out feeling good and had a great time.

SIZZLING SUGGESTIONS

Lito Adelfin

If the company can't provide a Christmas party for their celebration, I think the best way to celebrate this season is to have a Mass with the employees. They should celebrate Christmas by giving thanks to God for all his blessings without any expensive Christmas celebration.

Heidi Martin

Here's to "a merry Christmas company celebration" with the less privileged. The company should adopt a group of people in need of love and care this Christmas. Christmas would be most meaningful not only for the recipients of love and care but more so for the employees and the company for sharing their blessings. Let the celebration of "a merry Christmas company celebration" be a thanksgiving to God Almighty!

Groups which can be adopted this Christmas:

a. Children: sick, orphaned, abandoned, victims of violence and in difficult circumstances;

b. Adults in the twilight/sunset of their lives: sick, abandoned and unloved;

c. People in rehabilitation and correction centers;

Ma. Clinia Divina Estalilla

I work as an executive secretary to the vice president for finance for a mall in Davao City, which has about 400 employees including the mall management, food division (fastfood, bakery) and the supermarket.

A meaningful celebration of Christmas is to share it with the less fortunate children. But we cannot afford to do it because the company is under foreclosure order with the bank. Although we can still afford to light the giant Christmas tree which stands just outside the mall, we can't afford to give presents to the children in the barangay which the company adopted eight years ago.

In order that Christmas can still be shared with around 150 children, the division managers can help solicit goodies and toys from suppliers. I will definitely be there to extend a helping hand and share joy with the kids.

I do not want to think about the peace and order situation in Mindanao this Christmas. Peace has always been very elusive to us but we are thankful Davao City is still safe to live in. I would like to believe Christmas can go on if we put ourselves in the belief that the Lord was born during this season and that alone is the greatest celebration we must have in our hearts.

Alicia Escudero

A simple but meaningful celebration this Christmas would be to have a Thanksgiving Mass. This signifies that we rejoice over the blessings we received with the resolve to share them with those who are in need. The company then may organize a visit to one of the depressed barangays in their area and give out food, clothing and toys. Employees themselves may contribute used clothing and toys.

Ludovico C Aurelio Jr.

The best ways for a company to celebrate this season are:

1. There must be love among the members or staff because the reason for the season is love. We must celebrate it from the heart.

2. Bring a simple gift for him/her.

3. Each is assigned to prepare a dish for the occasion so food may not be a problem for everyone to share.

4. If possible, everyone will wear cartoon characters attire *para medyo maiba naman ang dating*. Prizes will be given to the well-dressed person and best rendition of Christmas carols. Each unit may prepare their part like dancing, singing etc.

5. Give one another a hug and kisses before ending the program.

6. Make sure everyone has a gift to bring home.

7. And most especially let peace and prosperity reign in all. Take away hatred from our hearts. That is the true meaning of Christmas.

Sarah Tare

Celebrate your office Christmas party at any charitable institution such as:

- street children's home
- home for the aged
- center for cancer patients

KBJ

(Those who sent these suggestions are advised to get their specially designed People at Work mugs from Rochelle Leonor, People at Work, 4th floor, PDI Bldg. Chino Roces Ave., Makati City at 2 p.m. on December 11, 2001. Those who are in the province, please just send your mailing address so we can mail the mugs to you.)

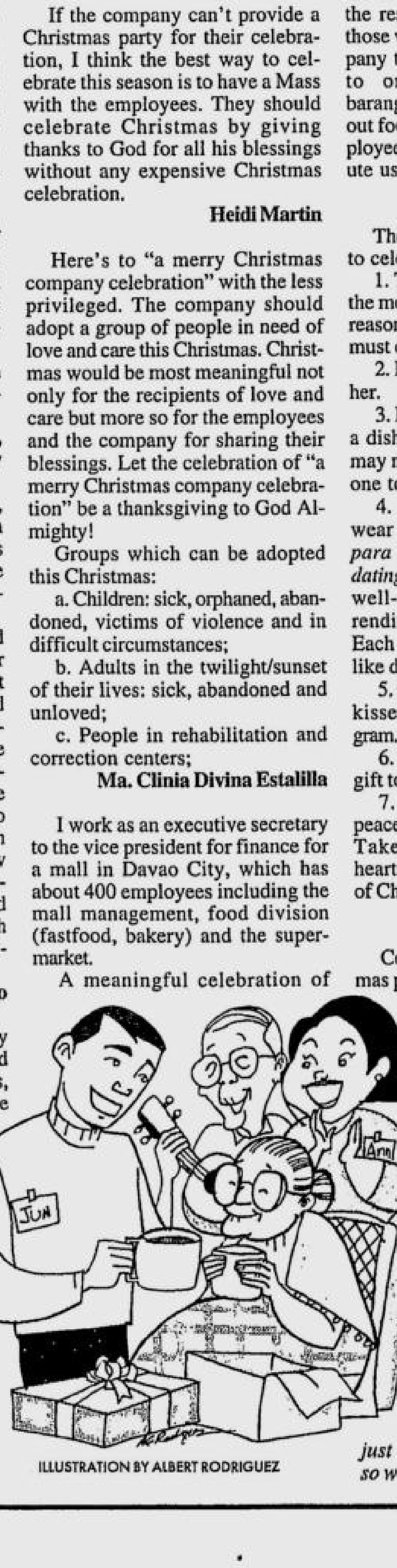


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Corporate survivor...

(From page B16)

man, who is always at your service. Never mind if it's his birthday or if he has to tread waist-deep waters, he goes to work setting up the function rooms to accommodate important guests.

Everyman

A utilityman by job description, an everyman by vocation, Sabinay has hobnobbed with the rich and powerful who have graced the INQUIRER's offices from Intramuros to UN Avenue to Makati. But even with such privileges he feels more at home with his co-employees.

Sabinay has been with the INQUIRER since its inception in 1986. He is among the few pioneers who have stayed, grown up and grown old with the newspaper, seeing it through an ad boycott, the Edsa revolts and really profitable profit-sharing times.

He holds the key to the boardroom and is master of the pantry and guardian of expensive wine, chinaware and silverware. He is the man people look for to facilitate their feast with his stock of plates, glasses, cups, spoons and forks. And for that vital role, the INQUIRER staff and officers alike call him, "*Amo*."

"Maybe it's because I'm the one they need when they eat since I decide whether or not to lend them plates and glasses," an amused Sabinay said in Filipino. "But, if they don't take care of the wares, I don't lend them," he added sternly.

Pioneer

Sabinay was "inherited" from the Madrid restaurant whose building at Highway 54 on Edsa was bought by former INQUIRER owner Eugenia Apostol to serve as the newspaper's office in 1986. He was among hundreds of maintenance personnel that would be displaced by the closure of the restaurant, where he served for 20 years. Fortunately, Mrs. Apostol was then looking for a janitor.

Sabinay was a shoo-in for the job, and before long, he found himself attending not only to the floor but to important people like the legendary editor Louie Beltran, and later, presidents like Fidel Ramos and many Cabinet members.

The Leyte boy, who came to Manila when he was just 15 years old to work, was able to put to use the fine dining arrangements he learned at the Madrid restaurant. For a maintenance guy, Sabinay is well-versed in formal dining intricacies, such as which wineglass to use, which spoon goes with what plate, and which cup is for ice cream.

Simple life

His lifestyle however could not be more different than fancy dining and wine.

Sabinay goes to work with P50 in his pocket. He walks from his home in Kalentong, Mandaluyong to the jeepney stops for his 8 a.m. duty at the INQUIRER. He brings no '*baon*' for lunch or dinner. "There is plenty of food left over from the meetings," said Sabinay, whose income is spent on housing his family of five.

After work at 5 p.m., he immediately goes home to his wife of 30 years, whom he met in a neighboring restaurant on Crossing, and who now attends to their sari-sari store in Kalentong.

On occasions, he and his friends would grab a beer and "*pulutan*" to unwind. The common man's party is a far cry from the boardroom feast but Sabinay finds more life in the streets than inside air-conditioned rooms.

Difficult times

With almost all of his four children finished with school, Sabinay appreciates his job and friends at the INQUIRER more now for getting his family through difficult times.

Twice, when he was hospitalized for hypertension and an operation for ulcers, Sabinay availed of the medical benefits and loans from the INQUIRER cooperative. When this was not enough, he could always count on his pals.

He is touched by small gestures of concern from INQUIRER people, who often offer him food or exempt him from arduous tasks when he appears tired from the day's work. For a change, Sabinay assumed the role of an appreciated "*amo*."

"You know, we're not getting younger, I also don't feel as strong sometimes," he said. "But the people here are very kind. That's why I've stayed this long."

Trustworthy

And in all of his 15 years with the INQUIRER, Sabinay never divulged confidential information he overhears during board meetings, or squandered his overtime without really working.

"I can't do that, it's not honest," was his simple explanation. He would remain faithful to his employers, whether it was Apostol or the Prietos, as he had taught his children. "I always tell them to persevere at whatever they do, and they will go far," he said.

The INQUIRER's "*amo*" will be retiring in three years, when he hopes to put up a big store and "just rest for a while." "I've worked long and hard, too, in my life," said Sabinay, who was among the 80 INQUIRER pioneers who were given awards, as well as rings, last week for loyalty.

But if the bosses want him to stay?

"I don't know. I guess I will serve until I can't do it anymore. I managed to live with the very strict Spanish owners of Madrid restaurant for 20 years, I'll be more than willing to be with the INQUIRER for as long as I'm needed," said Sabinay, who, in a way, is truly an "*amo*" of the boardroom.

Employee gets text messages at work from boyfriend

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

I AM employed in a company located in an industrial park in Cavite. My manager has reprimanded me twice for texting during office hours. She says texting is distracting me from my work. It is true but I can't seem to help it. My boyfriend constantly communicates to me through text. I have invited him many times him to visit me at home or fetch me from work. But he has many excuses. You see, I met him only once in a party. We exchanged cell phone numbers. He courted me and I said yes to him through text. Do you think this is a relationship worth keeping? I can't afford to lose my job.

Text Girlfriend

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

Courtship through text is a technology phenomenon of our times. Come to think of it, I feel nostalgia for those days when a man wooed a woman through many months or even years of courtship. So, I may not exactly be an authority when giving advice on text messaging. But let me try.

You manager is right. Texting may indeed be distracting and may reduce one's productivity. Unless, of course you use it to conduct business as people do in sales. Or it is an essential part of your job. Otherwise, you may have to discipline yourself to send text messages only during breaks or lunch or before and after work.

Some people claim that texting spices up their lives or perk up a rather boring day. But this may come at the expense of company time. Viewed from an ethics point of view, this may be equivalent to stealing time from the company.

Non-relationship

Now, on the other dimension of your problem—your relationship with your boyfriend and whether it is worth keeping—it seems like a relationship of non-relationship. I believe that there is no substitute for eyeball-to-eyeball communication.

Much is lost through text. You cannot see the facial expression of the other person. Is he sincere, amused or smirking? Who knows? Is he cherishing every word you say in the privacy of his room? Or is he showing your messages to his drinking buddies to strengthen his machismo? How can trust be built through text? Is he in fact the person texting to you or has he passed on his cell phone to another?

A friend of mine, who used to work for a cell phone company, shared with me actual situations where it is so easy to hurt people through text or for people to misunderstand one's intentions.

Trust

Several years ago, in a training of consultants I attended in Palo Alto, California, the resource person talked about the necessity of trust to ensure productive relationships when using technology like the Internet. We were talking about the subject of virtual management of people who work at home. The adage, "High tech, high touch" still applies. So if people have not built a relationship of trust face to face, it would be difficult to achieve meaningful results.

In fact, with the popularity of regional and matrix organizations in which people report to people in other countries, at the beginning of the new structure, constant communication is needed to lay down norms, guidelines and procedures for relating with one another. If this is the case for professional relationships, what more for a personal relationship? I suggest you press on with your desire for face-to-face communications with your boyfriend. This would be a test of his commitment to you.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Commitment

Father Joseph Galdon, in his book "The Mustard Seed," points out that commitment comes from the Latin word that means "to bring, join or to combine into one whole." He says, "A large part of any commitment must be the gift of myself. Many people fail in commitments because they don't bring anything to the commitment. They want to take, but they don't want to give."

He continues, "The richest of all commitments is what we call personal commitments—when I reach out to another person to bring that person together with me into one whole… without personal commitments, we are very lonely people."

If your boyfriend continues to refuse to have personal contact with you beyond text, you may consider dropping him. He may not be worth your care and attention, or worth the risk of losing your job. Remember, romantic text prose is easy and cheap. Take a look at the number of books sold in the bookstores. So before you become dreamy eyed, wake up to reality. Take stock of your situation. May you get the courage to do what is right and be happy.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc.@pacific.net.ph ,or fax to 892-2902.)

How high is your Delegation Quotient (DQ)?

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

IN THE PAST two columns, we have been discussing the time saving technique of delegating. Are you still having a difficult time delegating? If you are, let's check out your delegation quotient or DQ from the book "Manage Your Time, Manage your Work and Manage Yourself" by Merrill and Donna Douglass.

Delegation check

To find out how well you delegate, please answer yes or no to the following questions:

1. Do you allow your people to make mistakes?

2. Do your people make most of the day-to-day decisions without your approval?

3. Do your people get promotions at least as frequently as others with equivalent responsibility in your organization?

4. Do you frequently take work home or work late in the office?

5. Does your team function smoothly when you are absent?

6. Do you spend more time working on details than you do on planning and supervision?

7. Do your people feel they have sufficient authority over personnel, finances, facilities and other resources?

8. Do your people think that more tasks should be delegated to them?

9. Is your follow-up procedure adequate

10. Do you overrule or reverse decisions made by your subordinates?

11. Do you bypass your subordinates by making decisions that are part of their jobs?

12. Do you do things that your subordinates could and should be doing?

13. If you were incapacitated for six months, is there someone who could readily take your place?

14. Do your key people delegate well to their own subordinates?

15. Will there be a big pile of paper requiring your action when you return from a trip or absence?

16. Do your subordinates expand their authority with delegated projects without waiting for you to initiate assignments?

If you are an effective delegator, you answered yes to questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 13, 14 and 16 and no to the other questions. Did you get all 16 correct? If you did, congratulations! You are a delegation artist.

Reasons

If, on the other hand, you missed several questions, let us check what seems to be the problem. I guess you have a list of reasons there, but let me reason out with you. The following are some reasons for not delegating:

- Delegating takes time. Indeed, you need time to think, plan, train and develop people. However, in time and with the right people, your investment in delegating pays back.
- People will make mistakes and you need to help correct them. However, in time and with proper training, people will learn to do the task better.
- You are an action person. You want to get your hands dirty. Meanwhile, your team is not doing enough and is fighting boredom and idleness while you toil. Remember the cost of your time and that of your work unit when you are tempted to do a task all by your lonesome self.
- Inevitably, when you delegate, you surrender some element of your authority, but not your responsibility. You remain responsible for your team's overall productivity whether you delegate or not. When you delegate, you have more time to do the critical tasks yourself.
- You are afraid that you will have nothing else to do. You become invisible. On the contrary, when you delegate enough, you have time to look into improving your work unit's operations and making your personal career plans.
- You don't trust your staff or coworker to do a good job. The process of delegation only requires a minimal level of trust. Trust will develop as you move on. It is better to focus on developing a climate of growth, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

Art of delegation

Delegating is not simply a skill; it is an art. It makes you a better boss or co-worker. It opens career opportunities for you. It is also good for your physical, mental, social and spiritual health. Delegate more and you will have time to push your own career.

We are almost done with our Workshop on Time Management. If you have a particular issue or concern about the topic, please let me know how I may help you more.

If you are looking for people to share your Christmas blessings with, please share it with the "Shoes for Children" sponsored by the Rotary Club of Quezon City North and the Rotary Foundation for Soup Kitchen & Skills Training. For only Php350, a child among thousands will be happy to have a pair of shoes, socks, short pants and T-shirt. Companies may donate their company T-shirts or other giveaways. Please get in touch with RCQCN president Jun Ang or Judge L. Veneracion at Tel. No. 430-7665 or at the Rotary Soup Kitchen at 121-41 Rotary Drive, NGC Housing Project, Bgy. Commonwealth, QC.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquno.ZZN.com.*)*

WWW means business success

BY CLIFFORD LEE

POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

AS A 22-year-old software developer for a software firm in Vancouver, Canada, I can safely say that right now is the best time to prepare your arsenals for the next uprising of the IT industry. Companies in modern countries have been migrating their businesses to the web to provide efficient service to their clients and internal departments.

Too good to be true?

People have been saying that the worldwide web is simply an overrated part of the Information Technology sector. Although it may be hard for some people and even businesses to swallow, I say that the web is here to stay. Either people get ahead of themselves and prepare early or they totally fall behind and turn away from today's world.

When the telephone was first introduced, it wasn't widespread like what the Internet is right now. But nowadays, it is simply impossible for a business to function without a telephone. The web might just be the next essential tool to make a business work in the future.

So how would the web be helpful for a business aside from being a nice online brochure or a shopping alternative? These uses clearly understate what the web can do for a business. In the future, documents on paper essential for today's business will be translated to digital information transmitted on the web.

Right solutions

What makes things positive for the web are the hundreds of thousands of available online applications ready to be used for existing business models. Existing business models will be able to take advantage of today's technology through conversion of their current business model to move in a speed faster than one can imagine.

Imagine a business that doesn't have paper to work with. Imagine a business environment that works efficiently with the use of the computer, specifically the web, to transmit data from a mere workstation to others across the globe. Wouldn't it be faster to have all the data ready for you to retrieve in a secure environment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Work from home

What makes things interesting is that managers or CEOs can work from their homes by simply logging into the company web site and keep track of how things are going for the company. This internal web feature can be secured from the outside world and yet be very useful for the people who run the company.

Government agencies can also send documents in a matter of seconds therefore cutting down on red tape. A fully functional web application for a business or government agency will keep track of all transactions such as login and documents being accessed by employees. The application will be able to do everything an inventory keeper can while keeping it away from people who plan to desecrate it.

Proper deployment of the web application to simulate the current business model will not only force your employees to work harder and efficiently. You will have more man power to do what you do best, which is to serve your clients while your web application helps you run your business from the backend.

(Send contributions to Postcards to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How do you cope with information overload?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm drowning in e-mails, voice mails and mail-mails. Am I the only person who feels like all this technology is making us LESS efficient?

More Byte Than I Can Chew

Your letter got me thinking about Ramac. No, that wasn't an early Sylvester Stallone movie. It was IBM's most powerful computer back in the 1950s. This Big Blue ran on fifty 24" diameter magnetic disks, and weighed over a ton. Yet for all its girth, Ramac stored exactly five megabytes of data. But now that IBM has a hard drive that jams over 340 megabytes of data into just a few ounces, maybe we should start calling them Little Blue.

There's no question: computer and communications technology has come a long way. Trouble is, our brains haven't kept up. We continue to be the weak link in the information chain. So how do we deal with all this ROM, Ram, bandwidth and gigapower? For answers, I turned to "Data Smog" by David Shenk (Harper Edge, 1997). Shenk offers practical strategies to help us make sense of the data that's choking us today. I've adapted the following from it.

1. Can you do a better job of filtering information? News, trade publications, web sites, e-mail, books . . . These days it's a full time job managing everything you should be monitoring. Shenk says information overload can be attacked only at the source. Eliminate the non-essential. Unsubscribe from magazines and mailing lists (but keep reading your newspaper!). Ask friends and colleagues to recommend the one or two BEST sources of information and limit your input to those. Update your list every six months. Sure, you'll miss some worthwhile tidbits. But you'll use your smaller amount of data far more productively than you used your data overload.

2. Do you take time to process the information you're receiving? We get so busy receiving info that we forget to actually use it! Structure a "reviewing" time into your day—whether at your desk or during a jog—when you deliberately reflect on the data you've acquired.

3. Do you learn from people outside your niche? Want to meet a green-eyed H.R. manager who's thinking of trading his pinstripes for a surfboard? The Internet will introduce you! The way technology is going, soon we'll never have to communicate with people whose interests don't precisely match our own. Trouble is, the more we talk to our clones, the narrower our perspective becomes. Broaden your horizons! De-nichify and seek out people with different interests and different views. What you learn may give you a surprise or two—and a fresh way to interpret the data that's coming at you.

4. Can you reduce your own contribution to the data glut? Do you routinely send emails to everyone in your address book? Then you're part of the problem. Put away your shotgun and pass on data to just the people who really need it.

It isn't easy choking on data. Hopefully these tips will help you breathe easier at work.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which song title best sums up your feelings about the amount of information you have to deal with at work?

—I Can't Be Satisfied, 14%

—I Can't Remember, 38.6%

—I Can't Find the Time, 47.3%

Our winning strategy for dealing with information overload is from K.M. in Orinda, CA. "I have three voice mail boxes, e-mail, phone calls, mail, and interruptions by important people. How do I handle it? I SCREAM! Skim (to determine its importance and relevance). Chuck it (err on the risky side; you won't miss it). Resist temptations (stay focused). Evaluate (determine the level of urgency). Ask someone else to handle it (but don't forward your junk to others). Multitask (always do more than one thing at a time at work)."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Career confidence is a self-fulfilling prophecy

BY TERRI LOWE

CAREER confidence is a person's sense of having the ability to manage his or her career successfully—no matter what the future holds. Research has shown that feelings of confidence with regard to a particular task are significantly correlated with success in doing that task (Bandura, 1986).

Factors

For example, if I feel confident that I can rewire the electrical system in my house, I will be more likely to succeed at that task than if I feel less confident. There are a lot of factors that influence career confidence, including skills, abilities, past successes, and the faith that other people express in your abilities.

We measured career confidence in several ways. We asked respondents to indicate the number of industries in which they "were confident they could build a successful and satisfying career." About half of the people (57%) responded by estimating 2-3 industries and a large number (34%) indicated 4 to 10 industries.

Coping resource

Having a high degree of career confidence is a coping resource that is likely to increase one's perceived career success. However, most of the journalists we surveyed do not report having a high degree of career confidence. For example, many survey respondents report that they feel "below average" about the amount of time it will take them to find "a good job." Seventy-eight percent report that it would take the average person one to six months to find a good job. But only 63 percent feel that they themselves would be able to find a good job within that time frame.

People who have a high level of career confidence also tend to report that they can market themselves effectively. This suggests that increasing career confidence is likely to help people market themselves effectively and, therefore, enhance their opinions of their career success.

Ingredients

Some of the key factors in achieving career success include career confidence and effectively marketing oneself. Some of the key ingredients include:

- knowledge of industry trends
- satisfaction with steps taken in managing one's own career
- ability to clearly articulate strengths, skills, improvement areas
- ability to respond well to change
- having a large network of contacts
- defining a strategy to achieve career plans.

The survey results show that confidence in the ability to market oneself effectively is key to achieving career confidence and feeling successful. However, only about half (56 percent) of our survey respondents report that they feel they can market themselves effectively.

Being strong in these areas is likely to improve the extent to which one can market oneself effectively. While the majority of respondents feel quite positive about their ability to articulate their skills and strengths, most are less positive about their ability to articulate their improvement areas and about having a defined strategy to achieve their plans.

By improving their ability to articulate improvement areas and defining a strategy to achieve their plans, the journalists surveyed are likely to improve their confidence in their ability to market themselves.

Conclusions

The situation at this metropolitan newspaper is only one example of events that are becoming much more frequent in today's business environment. Such changes require both new coping resources and coping behaviors. These resources and behaviors play a critical role in determining career success, and will continue to do so in the future. More than ever, as we progress into the information age, people will need to become increasingly entrepreneurial and capable of doing a multiple and varied set of tasks.

(Terri Lowe is an industrial/organizational psychologist specializing in climate assessment, team building, and career development. Reprinted with permission from The Five O' Clock Club, America's Premier Career Counseling Organization.)

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ **Regina Galang Reyes**, Subsection Editor

Corporate survivor is 'amo' to Inquirer's bosses

By Blanche S. Rivera

CAREER*Tales*

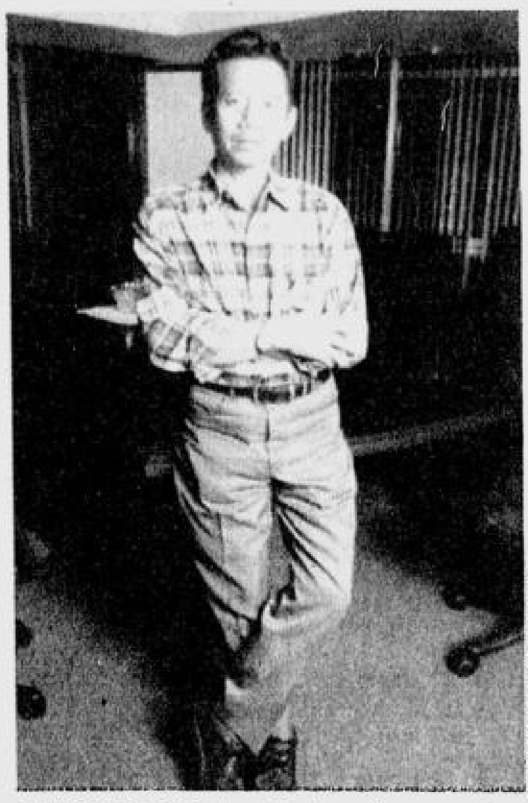
(To mark Inquirer*'s 16th year of corporate survival, Career Tales is featuring the hardiest survivor of the paper of all. He has survived the rapid and painful transformation of* Inquirer *from a "mosquito press" to the leading newspaper in the country today. He has survived* Inquirer*'s labor disputes, Erap problems and the advertising boycott. He has survived a debilitating illness. He has survived office politics and has risen above the petty intrigues usually plaguing workplaces. We take our hats off to Mang Domeng, a model of hard work and no-nonsense dedication, a true-blue corporate survivor and pioneer who reflects the values of* Inquirer*'s founding years. – Ed.)*

"*AMO*, meeting *sa* boardroom!"

No, the invitation is not addressed to Inquirer senior vice presidents Dave Valdes or Rene Reinoso. Someone more unobtrusive than the shareholders has access to the executive place in the office.

He is Dominador Sabinay, or Mang Domeng or "*Amo*" to Inquirer employees and habitues, the newspaper's 57-year-old all-around handy-

CORPORATE/B16



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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▣ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

'HALO-HALO' OF SOUNDS AND THEN SOME

2bU! rocks you with an earth-shattering, eardrum-smashing survey of the music scene—from the nominees of the NU Rock Awards to the top OPM records, from top music websites to the most promising new VJs, from bands with twisted names like Twisted Halo to bands with nebular tags like Imago, and from the bands we sorely miss to the bands we consider gods

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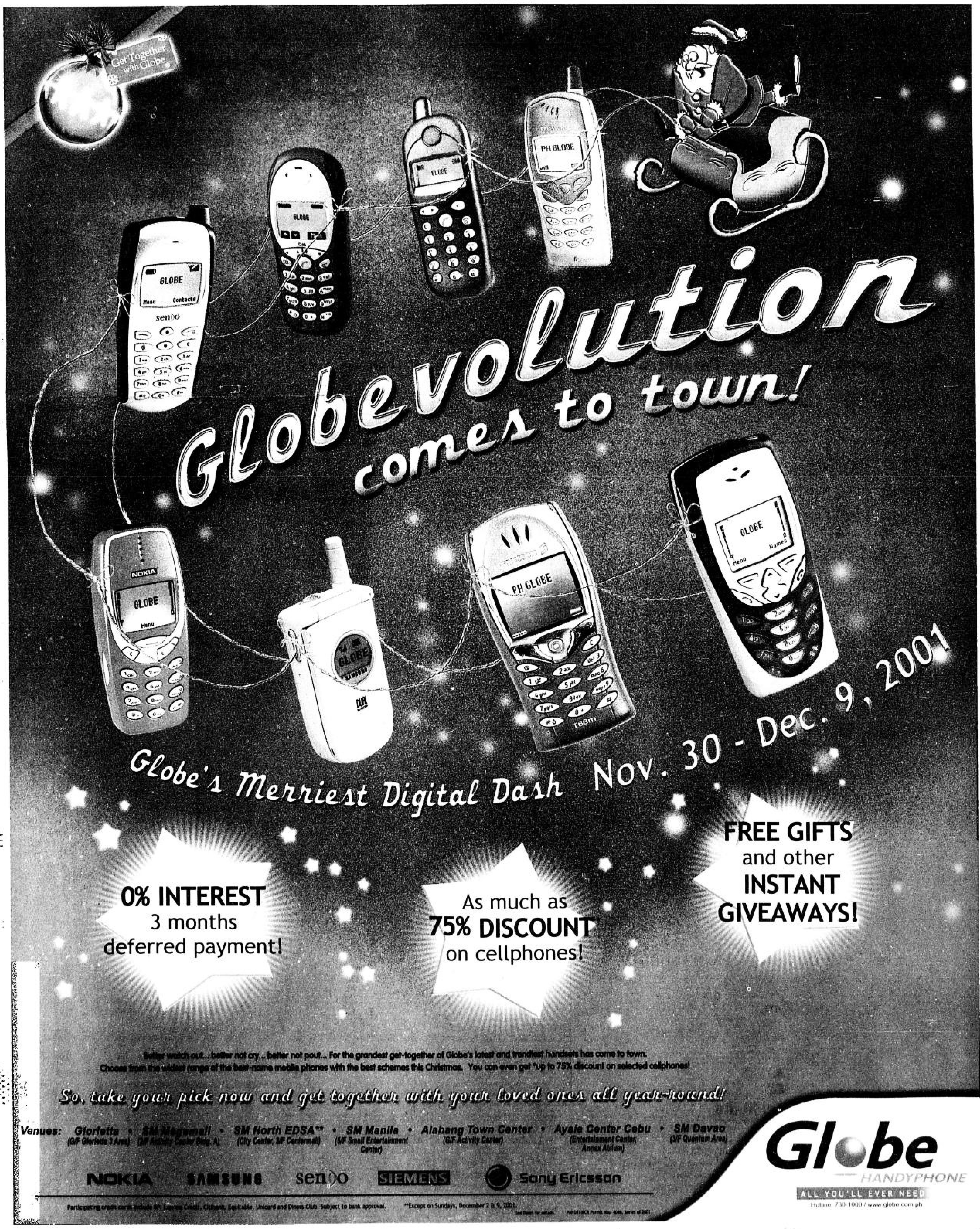

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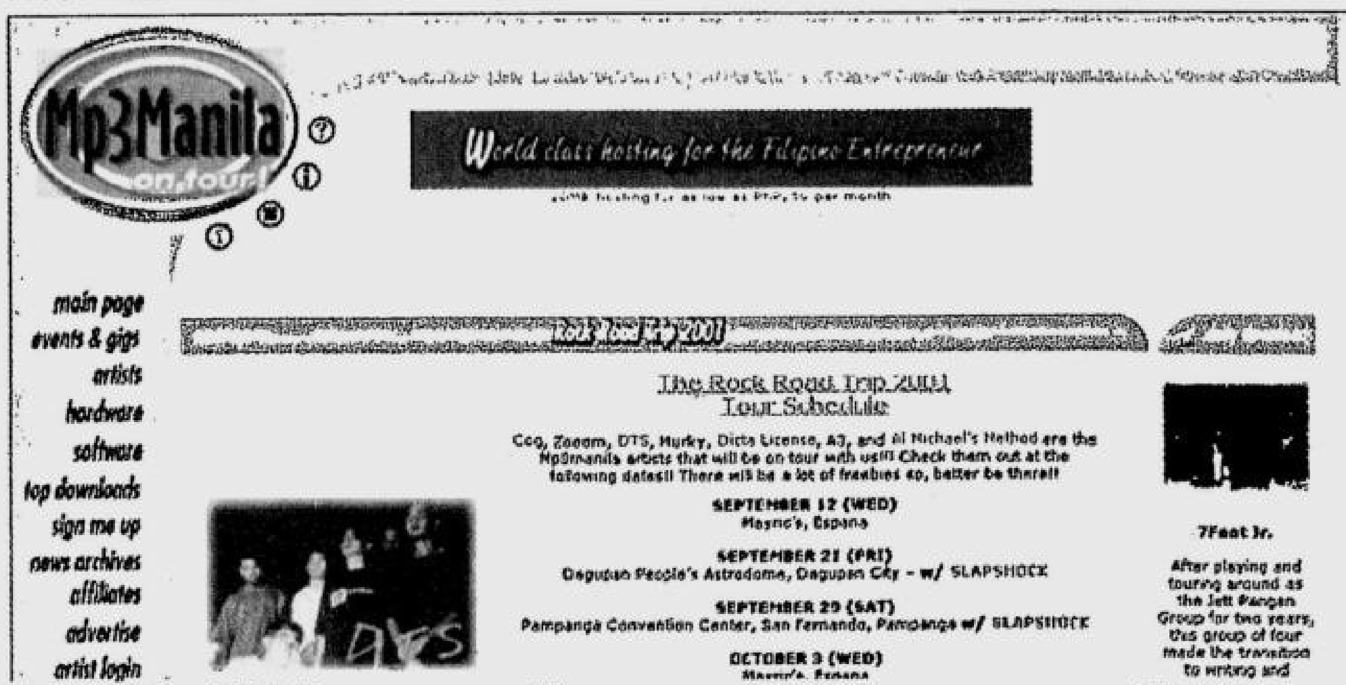
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The Rock Road Trip 2001
Tour Schedule

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Mayric's, Espana

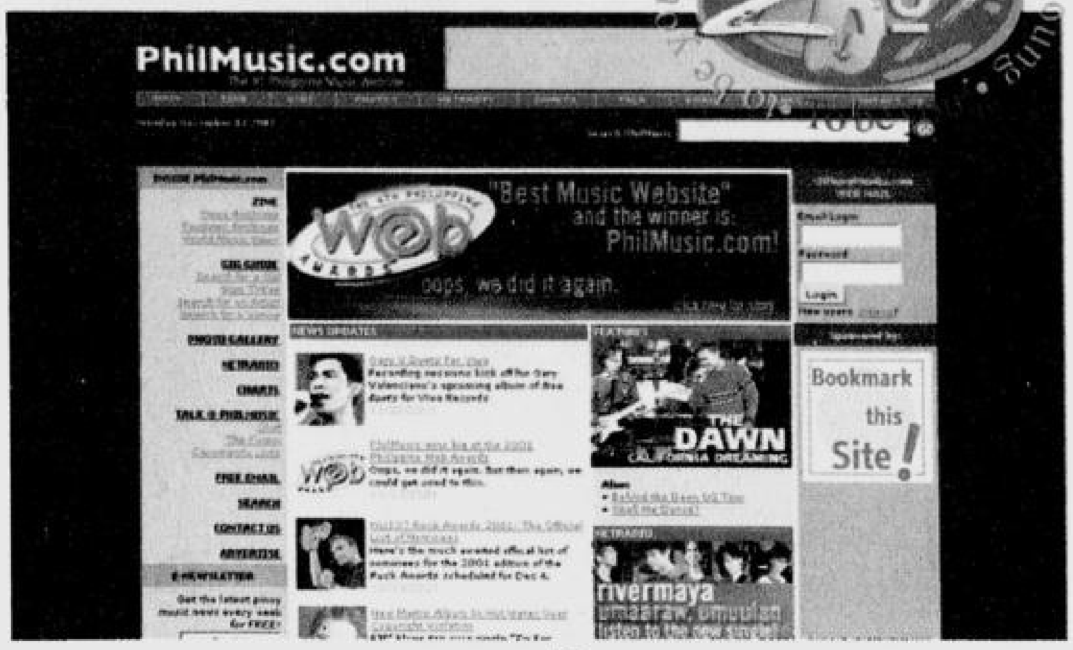
SEPTEMBER 21 (FRI)
Dagupan People's Astrodome, Dagupan City - w/ SLAPSHOCK

SEPTEMBER 29 (SAT)
Pampanga Convention Center, San Fernando, Pampanga w/ SLAPSHOCK

OCTOBER 3 (WED)
Mayric's, Espana

7Feet Jr.

After playing and touring around as the Jett Pangan Group for two years, this group of four made the transition to writing and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Philippine music goes cyber

BY GILES IVAN A. AQUINO
2bU! Correspondent
Don Bosco Mandaluyong

THE EASIEST way to find your kind of music these days is to go online. But, how well do we know our local music websites?

At the recent Philippine webby awards, philmusic.com emerged victorious, beating such finalists as immuseek.com, sonymusic.ph, titikPilipino.com and musiko.com. I browsed into the Philippine Web Awards' website to learn more about some of them.

www.philmusic.com

It was the fourth time philmusic.com won the Philippine Web Award. The site also got the "People's Choice" award. It has been winning since 1998, receiving the "PLDT website of the year" that same year.

Philmusic.com boasts of a sophisticated yet easy-loading webpage, a wide array of well-written and well-edited articles on the music scene like Random Access, Buzzbin, giving you the latest buzz on music. Some of the regular columns are "One Man-banned" by Lionel Valdellon, who is a self-confessed pirate; "Verbatim" by Quark Henares and "Silya Elektrika," which unfortunately directed me to a non-working page.

A gig guide tells you what is happening on any given day. You can even search for gigs. Also, there's a bulletin board where you can post your own gigs.

And, of course, the gallery—"freeze-framed moments from the ever-changing local music scene, updated daily" or, as they admit, whenever the mood strikes them. Mini articles are accompanied by pictures.

The site has "Netradio" for music streamlining and "Talk" for exchanging views on music.

www.mp3manila.com

MP3Manila is a haven for budding musicians. It also has a gig calendar. A cool addition is "Webstaz" for those who can't understand hip-hop, but want to. MP3Manila gives you a word of the week from its own "Webstaz" hip-hop dictionary to help you understand your favorite lyrics, terms and expressions better. You are advised to USE THEM WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

Being a gadget-lover, the best part about MP3Manila for me is "Hardware," a review of MP3 players like Nike PSA, sensory science rave, mp2100 Intel pocket, concert audio player, Samsung YEPP, which are definite must-haves for music lovers. Software features downloadable MP3 players including the websites where you can download them.

They have ftp (file transfer protocol) servers where the artists can upload their songs that can be downloaded by anyone for free. It can be browsed either by genre (with 119 categories) or location (81 regions).

The top 20 downloads are listed (some bands I never heard before but have the most downloaded songs), which as of Dec. 1, included "Siglokinesis" and "Kingdom Come" by Avatar; "Agent Orange" by Slapshock, "Smoke Under the Table" by Dicta License, "Hear Me" by Moonstar88, "Dahil Sa 'Yo" by Kuwantum, "Tsiks Na 'To" by BOK76, "Smokin' Fly" by Happy Meals and "Escape" by Grass.

www.livebands.com.ph

The site is for those who take music and fun seriously. If you are a member, you get to be online with a free webpage that you can edit anytime. The site keeps you posted on band schedules, special shows and special events. Subscribers and surfers will find helpful information like bands by music type and bars by location.

The site allows you to locate your favorite bands and bars through your Globe and Smart cell phones. WAP-enabled cell phones can access the site through http://www.livebands.com.ph/wap/. Globe or Smart subscribers can access band and bar schedules through SMS-enabled cell phones. Band enthusiasts and bar owners can now surf the Net and track down their favorite bands in no time.

The site has a "Buy & Sell" section for band equipment.

www.musiko.com

Started July 2000, musiko.com aims to be the home of the Filipino musician on the Internet and a resource center for musicians that will assist them in improving in their craft. It provides information on individual musicians in the form of an online resumé (http://www.musiko.com/profile/index.php) and information on when and where musicians in their database are performing.

The site has a tutorial. Surfers can take, for instance, online guitar lessons in a funny and the easy way from Perf's De Castro.

If you think you know all about music, musiko's "Trivias" will amaze you. It has trivia not only on your favorite artists like Freestyle, Eraserheads, 3rdangle, Pef, Asin but other topics as well. An example is the origin of the word "Wdouji's." It came from three words: wu, the time before the beginning of time (the great void so to speak); dou, now, as in right this very moment; and ji, respect. In short, the term connotes respect for everything. It also means Witch Doctors of the Underground Jazz Improvisators (W.D.O.U.J.I.)

If you're looking for musical instruments, musiko's "Equipment Guide" is where you should go.

www.titikPilipino.com

If TV has Vid-Ok, the Internet has titikPilipino.com. A finalist in the Philippine Webby Awards from 1999 to 2001, the site caters to musical enthusiasts. It has a database of lyrics of songs written and/or performed by Filipino artists. Songs can be searched either by title or by artist. The site is not limited to the Filipino community but to music lovers anywhere. It has been "visited" by Canadians, Americans, Australians, Germans and other curious foreigners who are or have become lovers of Filipino music.

www.sonymusic.ph

It has an awesome flash presentation and a clean and suave webpage, not to mention a job opening for graphic artists. Sony Entertainment Philippines' website is highly entertaining.

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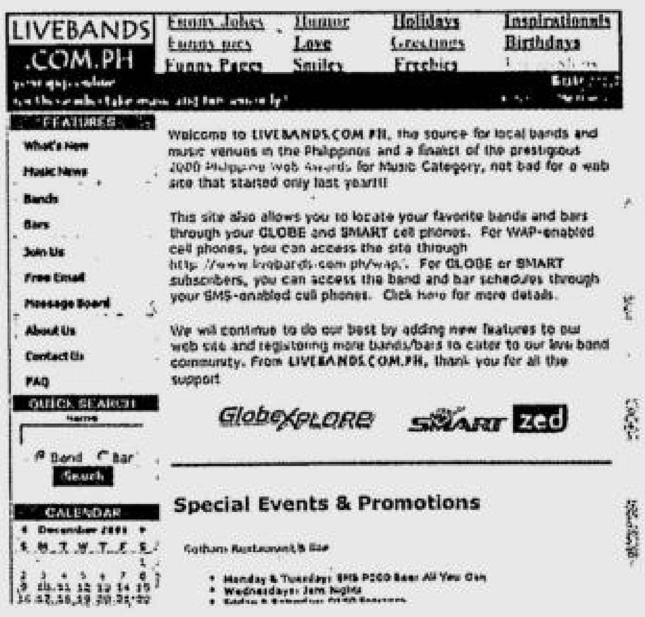
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Welcome to LIVEBANDS.COM.PH, the source for local bands and music venues in the Philippines and a finalist of the prestigious 2000 Philippine Web Awards for Music Category, not bad for a web site that started only last year!!!

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We will continue to do our best by adding new features to our web site and registering more bands/bars to cater to our live band community. From LIVEBANDS.COM.PH, thank you for all the support

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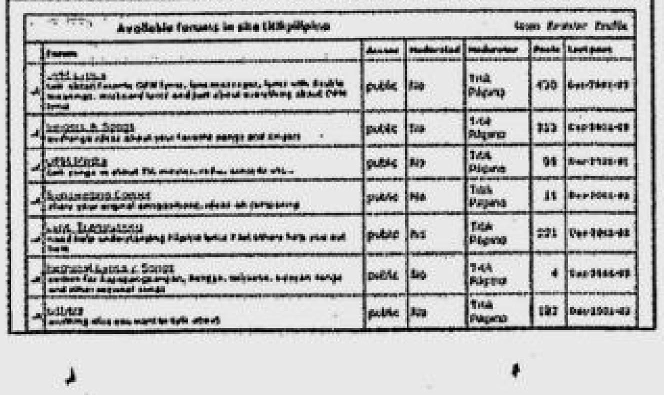
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Eardrum-busting sounds, cover versions and nostalgic hums

REVIEW

"Greyhoundz"
Sony Music

AFTER A TWO-YEAR hiatus, the Greyhoundz are back on the scene with the band's follow-up to their successful debut album "Seven Corners of Your Game."

Staying true to the rap-metal genre despite traces of reggae, electronica and jazz, the Greyhoundz's self-titled offering is sure to satisfy the demand for more "Pigface" angst. Shunning a more marketable sound, the band starts with the Avenido cousins keeping their trademark primal growls to the point of surpassing the first album.

The Greyhoundz have shown maturity with their new lyrics, which have become more personal, in sharp contrast to the social commentary in "Seven Corners." In "Your Puppet and Clown," lead vocalist Reg Rubio makes a desperate cry for help, "Hold me/ Hold me/ Help me up/ Don't let go."

"Greyhoundz" starts with the band's usual ingredient—anger and discontent. In "Even," the track starts with turntable scratches accompanied by weird bouncing ball effects. Heavy pounding by drummer TJ Brillantes then accompanies the heavy guitar riffs provided by Allen Cudal and Audie Avenido.

The first song on the album then explodes into ear-piercing screams characteristic of every Greyhoundz track. Rubio then brings on heavy rhyming toward the end, showing his dismay: "I was jaded/ manipulated/ used by a hypocrite."

Probably the first single to come off "Greyhoundz," "Pull" starts off with bassist Nino Avenido laying on the heavy stuff. The arrangement is close to being a remix and has been getting a bit of airtime.

"Jack in Da Box" is vintage Greyhoundz. Considered the earliest cut in the album, it has also been altered. It starts off like a Smashing Pumpkins track only with a bit more mischief. And with lyrics like, "Little angels go away/ your little demon wants to play," the song definitely is not for the weak of heart.

The album is a solid sophomore effort; it probably has a hit or two brewing in there. The instruments actually carry the album. The vocals have improved, but they are constantly overshadowed by the guitar's wicked shredding.

Better turn up the volume on this one. *Christian B. Bautista*

"The Way We Do"
South Border
Sony Music

WITH SO many local bands on the rise, it's difficult for a new band to make its mark in the Pinoy music scene. But even more difficult than grabbing the limelight is making sure one stays in there—the so-called sophomore jinx ails many a struggling artist, and besides, there's always someone just waiting to take over.

With their latest album "The Way We Do," South Border is one group that is sure to stay. Boasting 12 tracks and even a free VCD, one of the country's premier bands exudes talent with songs that vary from R&B to rock and rap. The album will not disappoint fans' expectations—and for those who are just starting to get interested in the music of South Border, "The Way We Do" isn't a bad introduction.

If there's one thing to describe this album, and perhaps even the band itself, it's versatility. The lone Tagalog song, "Habang Atin ang Gabi," provides the dark angst; the ballads "7 Years" and "All I Want Is You Today" give the soulful harmonies; "Non-Stop" is a short racy rap song; "The Way You Do" gives the R&B flavor. And with romance as the subject of most of the songs, the solemn, almost-religious track "Walk with Good" is a surprising yet welcome change—another testament to the group's capabilities.

The final verdict? This band's in a class of its own—definitely an asset of the Filipino music industry. "The Way We Do" is a beautifully designed, reasonably priced album that deserves more than one spin in your CD player; it's well worth the 280 bucks. Favorite track: "She." With its Latin feel and great rhythm, it's a song that you'd want to listen to over and over again.

Catherine Young

"Alive"
Freeverse
MCA Universal

They might be easily dismissed as just another show band that does nothing but cover other people's songs. But with a strong fan base, owing much to their powerful live performances and their self-titled debut album (MCA Unversal, 1999) which featured 15 original tracks and a hit single, "Muli," Freeverse—composed of Ryan Ortiz (vocals), Ned Esguerra (bass), Kiko Verzosa (guitars and vocals), Bong Maquito (keyboards), Joel Tolentino (drums) and Aya Yuson (guitars)—proved themselves to be a cut above the rest of them and almost at par with fellow bar-room heavyweights, South Border and Freestyle.

"Alive" features only five original compositions: "Make Believe," "Four Bytes," "Tell Me Why," Don't Set Me Free" and "Alive," alongside a slew of nostalgic remakes of such hits as "Maybe This Time," "All Behind Us Now," "After All," "I Just Can't Let Go," "Send Me One Line and Always Be There," and a commendable rendition of that Dina Bonnevie classic, "Bakit Ba Ganyan."

The new album starts off with the title track, "Alive," written by head songwriter and bassist Esguerra. The intro sounds a lot like a certain Boyzone song. Maybe that sets the pace right then and there, because in fact, despite the great number of covers, a lot of the original tracks in this new album also sound like someone else's songs. (Maybe they used up all the original material on the 15 tracks of their first album.)

They play it too safe in this new album, a bit too formulaic and overdrawn, borrowing too much from the influences and trends of the mainstream market in the hopes of catering to Filipino's penchant for nostalgia without the usual kitsch. The result is total bandwagon material with a bevy of generic ballads exploring the depths of the human emotion already exploited by earlier Pinoy balladeers like Martin Nievera. This sophomore offering just doesn't hack it; it wounds up being, well, sophomoric. It merely gives an inkling of the atmosphere and the energy reminiscent of a live performance, easily captured in a studio recording by more seasoned acts like South Border and Freestyle.

These are all talented musicians and the vocal arrangements are laudable. But Freeverse could have done better if they had showcased their individual talents. Maybe the bandwagon is where the money is. *Mervin Joseph Espina*

"Black Mantra"
Wolfgang
Epic, Sony Music Entertainment

WOLFGANG'S back with their long-awaited fourth album entitled "Black Mantra."

Wolfgang is composed of award-winning drummer Wolf Gemora, bassist Mon Legaspi, guitarist Manuel Legarda and vocalist Basti Artadi (a heartthrob, too!)

The album includes the single "No Falter," which is also included in the original movie soundtrack (local version) of "Final Fantasy." The music of the single is also bundled, as a VCD, together with the album. Another bonus for the fans is a "legal bootleg" VCD called "Live Bootleg." Other great songs are "Judas Noose," "Revolution Now," "Meckam" and "Bleed Unto Thee."

Songs from "Black Mantra" showed influences of classic rock musicians, particularly Metallica. A Kirk Hammet-like vocal is noticeable throughout the album, and a song (which I can't remember) has a hint of Metallica's "I Disappear." The intro of "Bow Unto Thee" sounds so much like Korn's "Freak on the Leash."

Compared to their previous albums, this is probably the most energetic and the most "raw" of the band's efforts. The band hasn't lost its "Wolfgangish" edge despite the influences from foreign bands. You'll just know the songs are by Wolfgang without looking at the CD case or the radio DJ telling so.

If you enjoy the band's music, but abhor sweaty bodies and fans screaming, then this album is a good alternative to concerts.

Kristine Ching

"My Souvenirs"
"More Souvenirs"
Martin Nievera
MCA Universal

FOR SOMEONE like me who's not much into Martin Nievera, his two new albums are a shock. They are filled with personal letters, poems, photos and sentimental songs that say a lot about the Concert King. In a way, it's like Martin stripped off with his showbiz image, and all you see is what his heart feels and thinks at the moment. His poems make him appear more human; someone who treasures his family and regrets whatever errors he has made in his personal life. That side of Martin is a shock not because he has never come across as a good person, but that he's actually as normal as anyone else is.

sound
real revolution

The songs in this album echo with sentimentality that would find a place in everyone's heart. For members of the lonely hearts club, "My Souvenirs" and "More Souvenirs" would either make them wallow in loneliness and pine for their special someone even more, or it could make them realize that there is still the family and that "You Can't Stop Christmas."

There are a lot of revivals here. Some are originally by foreign artists and others are hits from his previous albums. In "My Souvenir" for example, staple favorites like "You," "You are My Song" and "I'll be There (For You)" are included. And Martin, being the good crooner that he is, sings them like the listener is supposed to grab the person beside and passionately kiss him or her. Martin's duets with Regine Velasquez ("Forever") and sister, Vicki Nievera ("The Last Time I Felt Like This"), are worth your component's "repeat" button. There are two Tagalog cuts in this album (out of 16); one of them is the Metropop grand prize entry, "Pag-uwi." The song, composed by Louie Ocampo and Joey Ayala, is timely, just when our overseas workers are longing to be home this Christmas.

"More Souvenirs" is more beautifully packaged; it is an all-English album that contains more Martin photos and poems. As the title suggests, it is basically an extension of the first album. There are 18 songs in this album and again, a lot of them aren't Filipino compositions. But the few that are Filipino are nevertheless good, particularly "Simply Amazing," written by Martin and Louie Ocampo. The lyrics of this song printed on the leaflet are different from what Martin recorded. But I need not wonder why: "Now I can do almost anything coz / Smart is simply amazing." I couldn't help but laugh at this clever marketing ploy. It's just too hard to think of it as incidental.

Both CDs contain a VCD of Martin's MTVs as well as some of his performances in his previous concerts. Needless to say, these albums are worth their price tags. They're perfect complements to the cold December air when you want some peace, alone or not.

Jason Doplito

"Real Revolution"
Sound

SOUND who? Sound is a new band composed of Sach Castillo on vocals and guitar, Erwin Fajardo on keyboards, Paolo Lim on drums, David Esteban on percussion and Chino Yuson on bass. Their first single, "Real Revolution," might just be their tribute to the men and women who stood for what they believed in the revolution of 2001. The band is quick to say though, that theirs is not a yell of rebellion. Easy to believe. Rebellion is the last word the song brings to mind. The catchy, tap-inducing tune is the result of the combination of the impressive play of instruments and the soothing voice of Sach.

The second single, "Rebuilding," is just as catchy as the first. The third, "Real Rev," is a slow version of the first single. Right now, Sound hasn't released a full album yet but free MP3s may be downloaded from www.sound.ph. The band has proved that you don't have to be angry to make a statement. Sound may just bring forth a revolution of its own. For people who are ready to take a break from loud music, for music fans who are craving to hear a fusion of acid jazz, rock and electronica from talented local artists, Sound is the band they might have been waiting for. These songs are ideal for playing in the car or in your room when you just want to chill out. This is music that relaxes the mind, music that can soothe your soul. Let me just say, I can't wait for their album.

Pam Pastor

Candy
ASSORTED FLAVA

"Assorted Flava"
Candy
Virgin EMI

REMEMBER when you were a kid and your mom would tell you never to judge a book by its cover? We shall apply the same rule to album covers. Never, ever, ever judge an album by its cover (unless it's a John Tesh album. Really, don't waste your time contemplating a John Tesh album).

You might think Candy comes off as your usual noontime-show performer. If anything, she's a Chill wannabe who hopes to tickle R&B and pop fans with her music. The surprising thing is her debut album, "Assorted Flava," is a far cry from Chill's. Spinning her CD reminds me of a black R&B artist climbing the Billboard charts. And I'm not kidding when I say that.

To put it flatly, Candy's voice is a solid investment. It's a low, sultry tone that fits R&B perfectly. It's surprising to actually hear an R&B artist who sounds like she actually *wants* to make R&B music. Her powerful vocals are established in the first track, "Blowin'"; she gives men the boot in the second cut, "I Don't Need."

Candy may have the gift of song, but the album doesn't exactly groove with her talent. The songs don't exactly make Candy's voice stand out. Sometimes, it even drags it down. The sound is very, very raw. Either that, or the songwriting. Penning most of the songs on the album, Candy may be a good singer, but she really needs some practice in the writing department. Most of the lyrics are dragging, and sometimes too predictive ("I will always hold you in my heart/Even when we are far apart/Because you care/You're always there").

The best cuts on the album are, surprisingly, the ballads. "Because You Care" is an ode to those who look after us, and "Paano Ba" is a classic mushy Pinoy ballad.

Simply put, album art does not matter. Candy's one artist whom we'll see sitting on top of the charts in the future—if she gets her act together.

Maui V. Reyes

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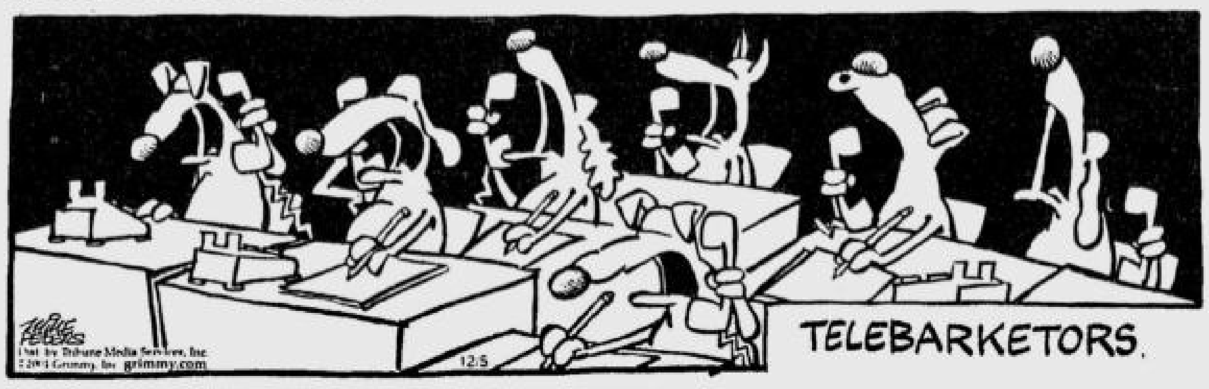
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


TELEBARKETORS.
Mike Peters
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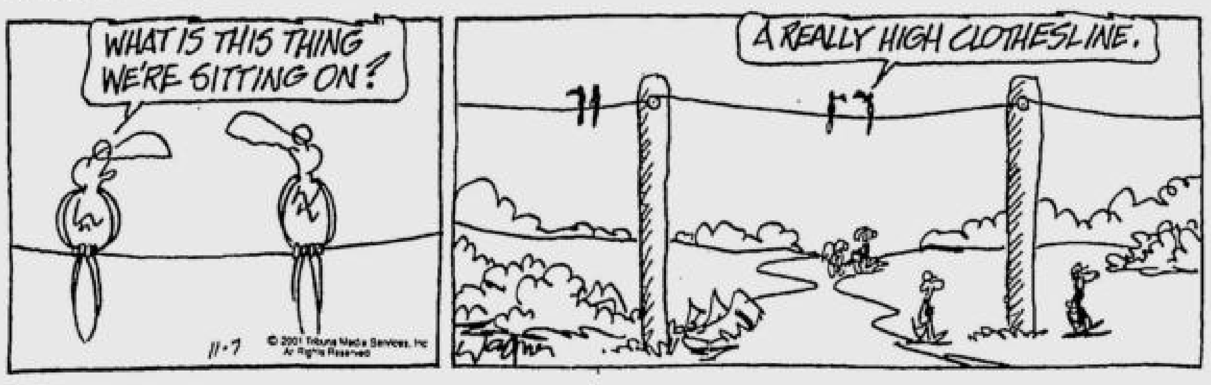
12-5

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT IS THIS THING WE'RE SITTING ON?
A REALLY HIGH CLOTHESLINE.
11-7
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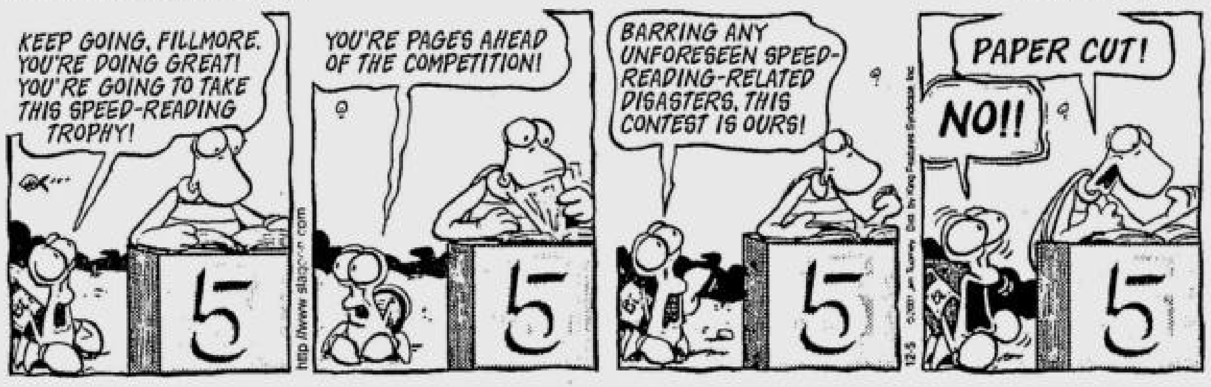
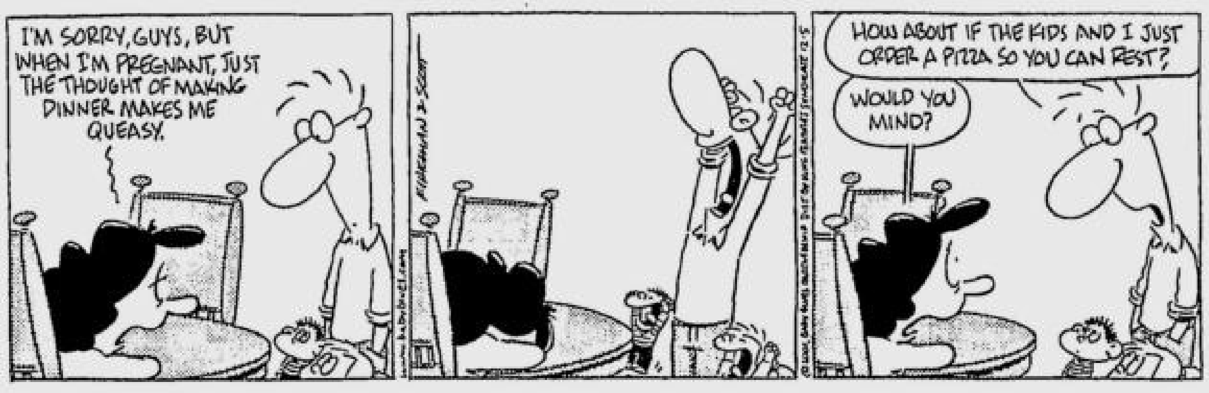
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


KEEP GOING, FILLMORE. YOU'RE DOING GREAT! YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS SPEED-READING TROPHY!
5
YOU'RE PAGES AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION!
5
BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN SPEED-READING-RELATED DISASTERS, THIS CONTEST IS OURS!
5
PAPER CUT!
NO!!
5
http://www.slagoon.com
12-5

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M SORRY, GUYS, BUT WHEN I'M PREGNANT, JUST THE THOUGHT OF MAKING DINNER MAKES ME QUEASY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
HOW ABOUT IF THE KIDS AND I JUST ORDER A PIZZA SO YOU CAN REST?
WOULD YOU MIND?
12-5

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jose Carreras, Little Richard, Joan Didion, Calvin Trillin, Margaret Cho, Lanny Wadkins
Happy Birthday: Your imagination will be in overdrive so put it to good use. Your creative abilities must be allowed to flow freely if you want to accomplish the most. The changes you've been trying to implement into your life can be accomplished if you rid yourself of the dead weight that you've been carrying around for so long. Take back your life by moving in the direction that suits you best. Your numbers: 4, 15, 22, 27, 35, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a little time out to enjoy yourself. All work and no play will lead to poor relationships with those who really count. You will discover all sorts of interesting information if you listen .

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may need to put in a little extra effort today. Your best results will come from taking extra work home. You may not please loved ones but it will put your mind at ease once the work is done and you can relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't pick fights. You are best to agree with colleagues or say nothing at all. Be careful not to reveal information that was supposed to be kept a secret.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop whining. Financial limitations will not be as bad as they appear. You can make extra cash by picking up a part-time job. Get help setting up a reasonable budget so you don't find yourself in a financial bind again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should take extra precautions around your home. Double check before you go out to be sure that everything is in order. Someone you live with may be irritable and hard to deal with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to listen up. Your inability to take advice from others has cost you dearly in the past and you don't want to suffer similar consequences. Learn from your mistakes .

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't put limitations on yourself or let anyone else hold you back. You can lend a helping hand but don't get taken for granted. Sometimes you have to let others make their own mistakes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be looking to make a change. Boredom has set in and you are probably getting that restless feeling. You really need to put some excitement back into your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be in a learning mood today so take advantage of it. Intellectual talks with people you look up to will raise issues that you may not have thought about in the past. Don't hesitate to come right out and ask specific questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be in a financial mess if you let money slip through your fingers. Focus on your professional career and making whatever gains you can and you will put yourself in a much better position by the end of the year.

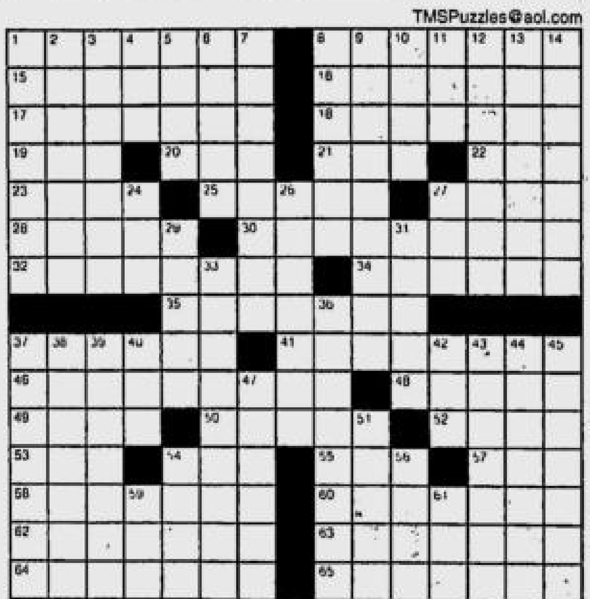
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to do something nice for the people you care most about. You can make special plans that will please everyone involved. Family outings or a quiet day spent with your lover will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take your time. Don't let someone push you or restrict you from doing what you want . Do what's necessary in order to please your self. You call the shots and you will feel better about yourself.

Birthday Baby: You were born to entertain others. You have such an effervescent personality that you are very hard for others to resist. You know how to get whatever you want and can easily influence those around you to let you be the leader.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/20/01

ACROSS
1 Mussolini's ideology
8 Bombarded
15 Fertility goddess
16 Tartuffe's creator
17 "The Philadelphia Story" Oscar winner
18 On the horizon
19 Light knock
20 Johnny Cash hit, "A Boy Named __"
21 End of a sock
22 Carpet fiber
23 Elevator man?
25 Shaker's partner?
27 Okay
28 Baseball teams
30 Russell and Ivan
32 Enraptured
34 Least adorned
35 Brings to mind
37 Conduct
41 Massachusetts
46 So it would seem
48 Solemn vows
49 Artificial water channel
50 Transparent
52 Japanese legislature
53 Peeve
54 Hasten
55 __ Aviv-Jaffa
57 Salton or Caspian
58 Colors, '60s-style
60 Rips into
62 Fall into obscurity
63 Marry
64 Tyrants
65 Groups of seven

DOWN
1 Treacherous trick
2 Unstable
3 Old-time underwear
4 Crow's call
5 Gershwin and Levin
6 Play ukulele
7 Like a shooting star?
8 Kills, old-style
9 With all due respect
10 Besides
11 Set afire
12 Of the pride
13 Short, purposeful trips
14 Most profound
24 Prepared
26 Capable of being spoken
27 Evergreen
29 Casual military address
31 Will Rogers prop
33 Itsiest and bitsiest
36 Gifts for newborns
37 Deserved
38 Cupidity
39 Buffalo coins
40 Fruit beverage
42 Small boy
43 Under discussion
44 Cold War side
45 Landed properties
47 Hypothetical propositions
51 "Touched by an Angel" star Della
54 Syringe, for short
56 Northern Scandinavian
59 Chip scoop
61 Bilgewater

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	U	N	T	■	F	R	O	M	■	M	A	L	E
H	O	S	E	A	■	R	A	R	A	■	A	L	E	S
A	F	E	W	L	O	O	S	E	S	C	R	E	W	S
M	U	D	■	E	D	N	A	■	T	O	L	E	D	O
■	■	■	S	N	I	T	■	S	O	L	O	■	■	■
A	S	T	U	T	E	■	A	I	D	E	■	U	P	S
M	O	R	T	E	■	A	L	T	O	■	S	H	A	W
A	B	O	R	D	E	R	L	I	N	E	C	A	S	E
Z	E	T	A	■	I	N	O	N	■	P	A	U	S	E
E	R	S	■	K	N	I	T	■	B	I	L	L	E	T
■	■	■	E	A	S	E	■	F	A	T	E	■	■	■
O	M	E	L	E	T	■	O	L	G	A	■	W	H	O
M	I	D	D	L	E	A	G	E	S	P	R	E	A	D
E	R	I	E	■	I	N	R	E	■	H	O	R	N	E
N	E	E	R	■	N	Y	E	T	■	S	E	E	K	S

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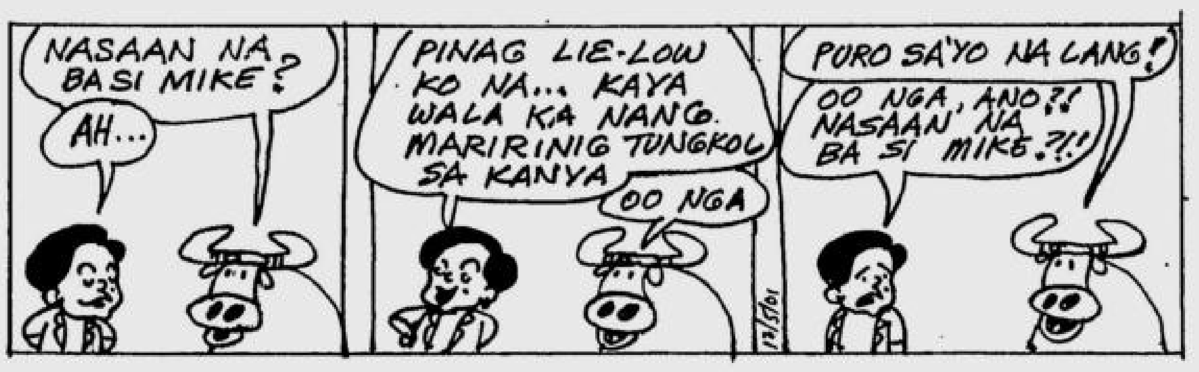
10/20/01

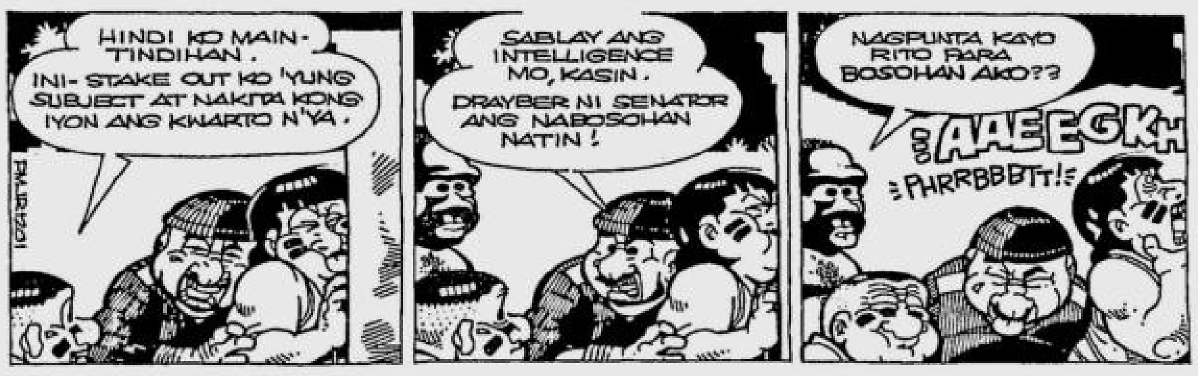
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NASAAN NA BA SI MIKE?
AH...
PINAG LIE-LOW KO NA... KAYA WALA KA NANG MARIRINIG TUNGKOL SA KANYA
OO NGA
12/5/01
PURO SA'YO NA LANG!
OO NGA, ANO?! NASAAN NA BA SI MIKE?!!

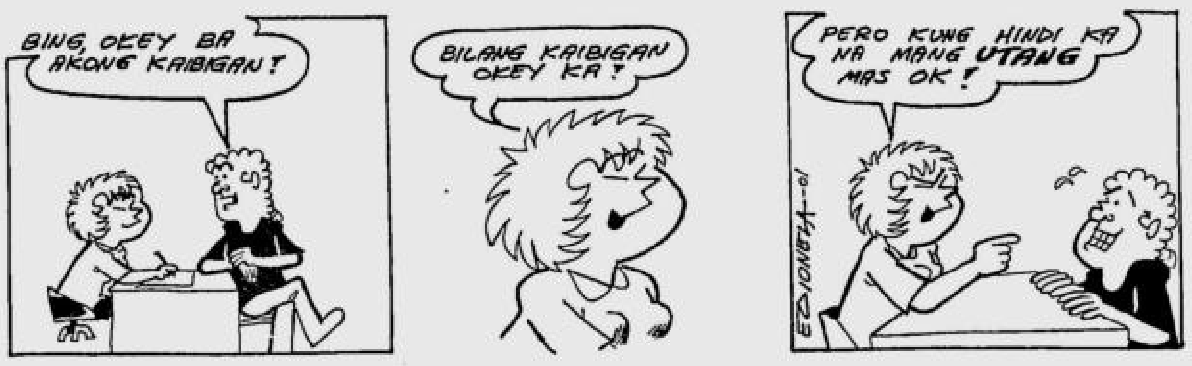
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KO MAIN-TINDIHAN.
INI-STAKE OUT KO 'YUNG SUBJECT AT NAKITA KONG IYON ANG KWARTO N'YA.
PMJR12/01
SABLAY ANG INTELLIGENCE MO, KASIN.
DRAYBER NI SENATOR ANG NABOSOHAN NATIN!
NAGPUNTA KAYO RITO PARA BOSOHAN AKO??
AAAEEGKH
PHRRBBBTT!

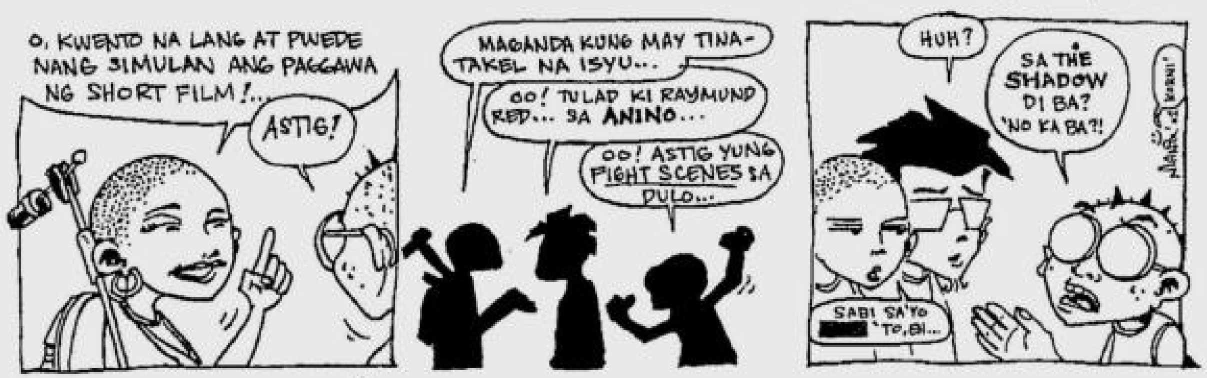
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BING, OKEY BA AKONG KAIBIGAN?
BILANG KAIBIGAN OKEY KA?
PERO KUNG HINDI KA NA MANG UTANG MAS OK!
EDIONELA-01

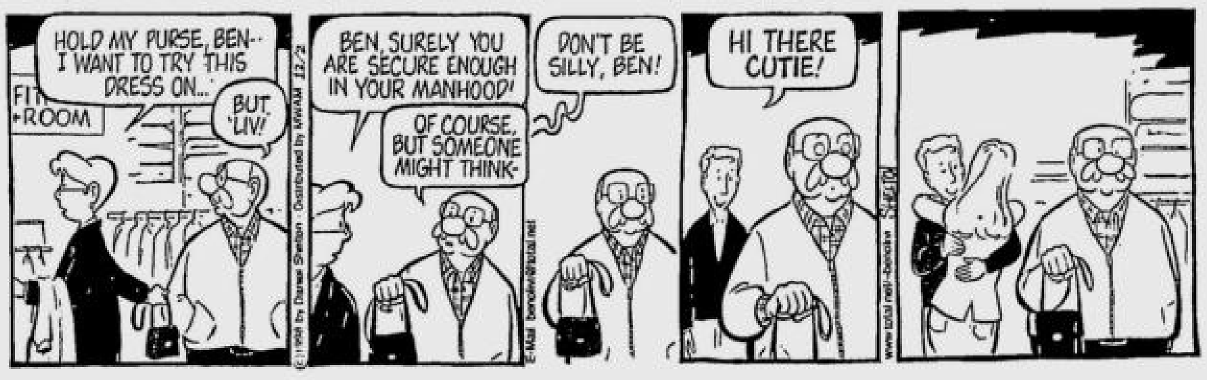
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


O, KWENTO NA LANG AT PWEDE NANG SIMULAN ANG PAGGAWA NG SHORT FILM!..
ASTIG!
MAGANDA KUNG MAY TINA-TAKEL NA ISYU...
OO! TULAD KI RAYMUND RED... SA ANINO...
OO! ASTIG YUNG FIGHT SCENES SA DULO...
HUH?
SA THE SHADOW DI BA? 'NO KA BA?!
SABI SA'YO [redacted] 'TO, BI...

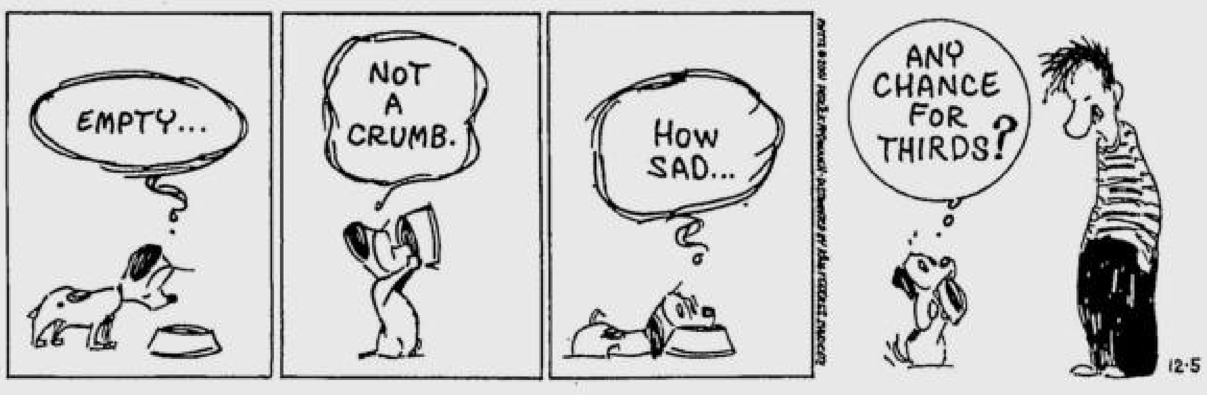
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOLD MY PURSE, BEN-- I WANT TO TRY THIS DRESS ON...
BUT, 'LIV!
FITTING ROOM
BEN, SURELY YOU ARE SECURE ENOUGH IN YOUR MANHOOD!
OF COURSE, BUT SOMEONE MIGHT THINK-
DON'T BE SILLY, BEN!
HI THERE CUTIE!
12/2

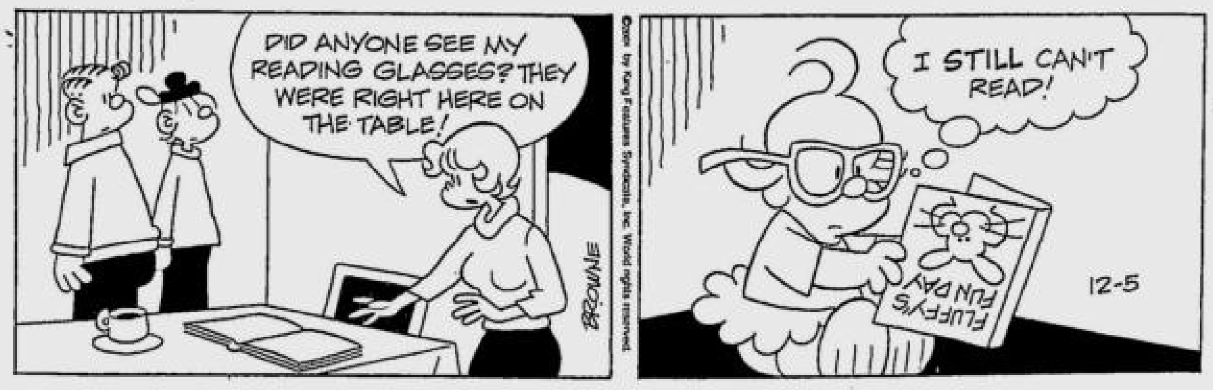
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EMPTY...
NOT A CRUMB.
HOW SAD...
ANY CHANCE FOR THIRDS?
12-5

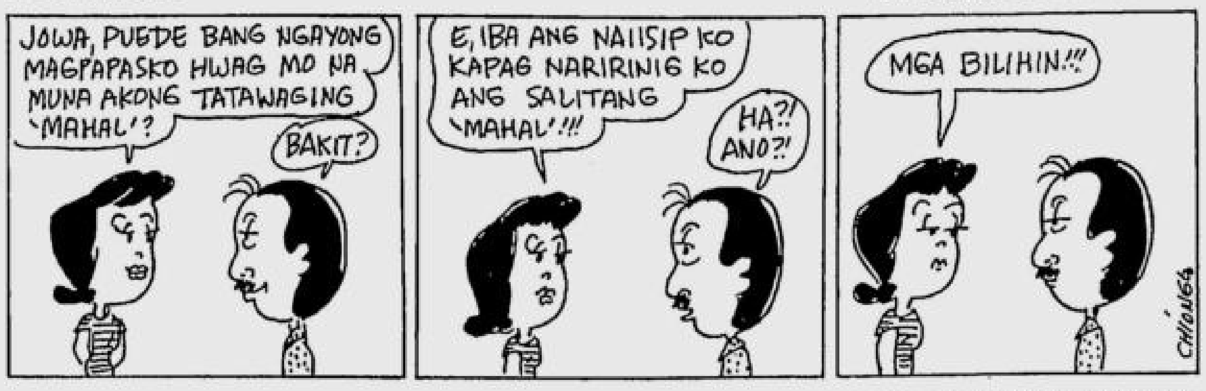
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DID ANYONE SEE MY READING GLASSES? THEY WERE RIGHT HERE ON THE TABLE!
BROWNE
I STILL CAN'T READ!
FLUFFY'S FUN DAY
12-5

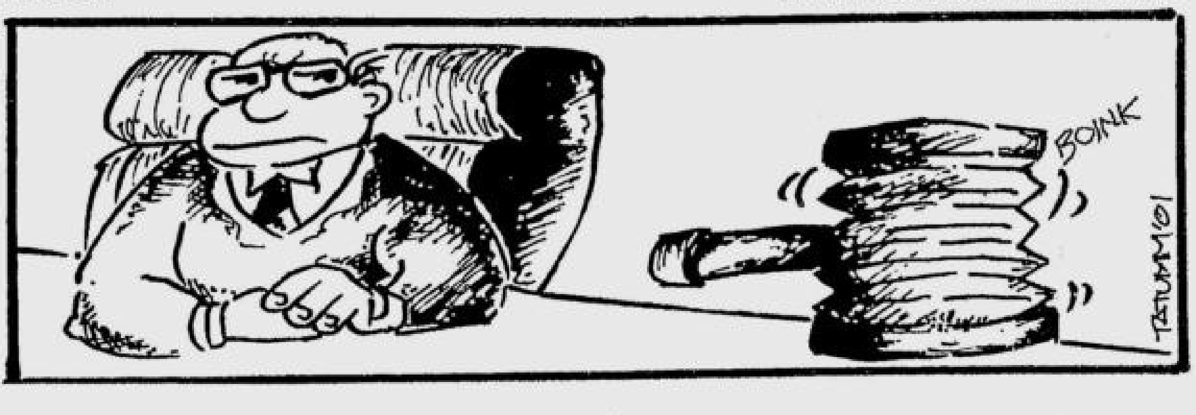
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, PUEDE BANG NGAYONG MAGPAPASKO HWAG MO NA MUNA AKONG TATAWAGING 'MAHAL'?
BAKIT?
E, IBA ANG NAIISIP KO KAPAG NARIRINIG KO ANG SALITANG 'MAHAL'!!!
HA?! ANO?!
MGA BILIHIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BOINK
TATUM'01

What's your favorite line from an OPM song?

2bU! asks the most popular musical acts to spill their favorite lyrics

"*SUMIGAW, umawit ka, ang buong mundo'y nakikinig sa yo*," from Identity Crisis. It captures everything I believe in, in terms of music and the youth.—**Rivermaya**

"*Ako'y nag-iisa*." I always imagine Kevin Roy singing it. I think of that, I picture Kevin, and it's funny.—**Manuel, Wolfgang**

"Manila." Because it's a good song, and it's one of the few times I've heard the name of a city that's Tagalog where it actually sounds good.—**Basti, Wolfgang**

Yung chorus *ng* "Halik ni Hudas." *Napaka*-biased *ko*, *'no? Ang galing, eh, ang ganda ng* lyrics.—**Wolf, Wolfgang**

Pwedeng jingle *ng* commercial? *Yung* Family's Brand Sardines. (Starts singing it) It's f----n' April Boy, man. For the past three days, it's been in my head. I'm playing Diablo and singing that song... "*Busog sa laman, busog sa...*" *P-----a*. I just can't get it out, so I guess it's a good song.—**Mon, Wolfgang**

Ako, Itchyworms' "Five minus three is two, I wanna be with you." *Kasi gusto ko meron akong* No. 2 , *eh*.—**Tim, Imago**

Itchyworms *din ako*. "One, two, three, four." It reminds me that I can still count to four. Actually I just made that up.—**Arvin, Imago**

"I'm just a regular guy," Jun Lupito.—**Zach, Imago**

"*Nananabik na muling dalawin ng antok*." "Insomnia" by Sugarfree. I have bad sleeping habits.—**Aia, Imago**

"*Buti pa ang bisyo, binabalik-balikan*." By Gary Granada. I think it's very witty. I don't really remember most of the lyrics, pero that's my favorite. *Galing*.—**Francis, The Dawn**

"Beep, beep." It's censored.—**JP, The Dawn**

"*Gusto kong matutong mag*-drive." I think that line captured a lot in terms of the youth's psyche. Wanting to do something. Doesn't make sense, but it does. It's something very true with the youth. You always want something, always want to strive for something.—**Jett, The Dawn**

"*Pag may problema ka, magsuot ng maskara*." *Maskara. Parang nagre*-reflect *sa* music *namin. Kasi, di ba*, we run into problems but at least we can cover it up by playing and being different onstage.—**Jamir, Slapshock**

"Beep Beep." *Kasi yun ang unang-unang mabigat na* riff *na* OPM, *eh. Madaling sundan.*—**Gerry, Slapshock**

"Umaaraw, Umuulan." Rivermaya. *Kasi hindi ko makalimutan.*—**Chi, Slapshock**

"*Sana'y wala nang wakas*." *Dapat laging masaya. Sana wala nang katapusan. Kanta na lang.*—**Lee, Slapshock**

"Salamat Musika." *Kasi ano, eh... kung wala nang music, panget.*—**Lean, Slapshock**

Ano yun? "*Wala ka nang makita...*"—**Kelvin, Itchyworms**

"*Di ka pa mag-antipara*."—**Chino, Itchyworms**

"Sometimes what comes up, just won't go down." Sandwich.—**Jugs, Itchyworms**

Ako favorite *ko ano*, "*Huwag mo akong sisihin, kung minsan ako'y iyakin*." Sugarfree, "Ilang Araw." Because it touches my heart like a butterfly in the snow. (Laughs)—**Jazz, Itchyworms**

I can only think of LA Lopez's chorus in that song. Because it just crawls up your spine.—**Lourd, Radioactive Sago Project**

"*Limang dipang taong nagtutulakan*." Ryan Cayabyab *yun*.—**Wendel, Barbie's Cradle**

When you listen to the song, he really captures what's it like to be on the street, you know, like in a jeep. *Basta ang galing. Parang* traffic song.—**Barbie, Barbie's Cradle**

"Sedated a million girls in Sydney." By Hotdog. Because it's Hotdog. And Sandwich. No, no... *Nakita kita. Dalawang "kita kita", di ba? Pero iba yung* meaning *siya sa "kita-kita." Hindi, talaga. Ako tinutugtog ko yon* every show, *kasi maganda siya*.—**Raimund, Sandwich**

"*Umuulan, umaaraw*." *Ganyan ang buhay, eh. Parang paikot-ikot*. Sometimes you have to experience some bad things in your life so you can learn from them, and do something to achieve your goal.—**Acel, Moonstar 88**

"*Tatanda at lilipas*." *Kasi* classic, *eh. Sana kung gagawa ako ng* music, *parang ganon. Yung mare*-revive *ng ibang* musician.—**William, Moonstar 88**

"*Masdan mo ang kapaligiran*." By Asin. *Kasi ano, eh*, love *ko yung* nature, *eh*.—**Herbert, Moonstar 88, Brownbeat All-stars**

"*Pasko na, sinta ko*." *Kasi papasko na, eh*.—**Wham, Brownbeat All-stars**

"*Pagpatawad mo!*"—**Bong, Brownbeat All-stars**

"*Ibigay mo na. Ang tilapiang saksakan ng taba!*" *Mahilig ako sa tilapia, eh*.—**John, Brownbeat All-stars**

"*Kahit na maputi na buhok ko*." *Wala lang*.—**Ronny, Brownbeat All-stars**

"Rage against the dying of the light." *Wala lang. Ang hirap mag-isip ng ganyan, eh. Sasabihin ko sana* lyrics *ng* kanta *ko, eh. Kaso nakalimutan ko na, eh. Ang hirap alalahanin!*—**Skarlet, Brownbeat All-stars**

New videos are more experimental and cutting edge

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINE music video scene has come a long way indeed judging by the quality and quantity of the videos that we now see.

Video productions are no longer confined to tried and tested concepts and angles. The present scene is becoming more and more experimental and cutting edge, even if the main inspiration for most is still foreign in origin.

Forever imprinted in my heart and my mind are the early videos from Joan Lorenzana, Viktoria and Gino Padilla.

Other favorites are Kyla's "Hanggang Ngayon," Da Pulis' "Remember Me," Viktoria's "Puwede Ba" and all the Kulay videos.

Of the current crop, here are three Pinoy music videos that stand out.

'To Reach You'—Regine Velasquez

Rearranging letters of her first name, Asia's songbird comes up with a new album called "Reigne." The first track is lukewarm, with neither the high vocal curling nor super syrupy sentiment that generates collective sighs from fans. The piece sounds like something from a Diane Warren wannabe, with apologies to the composer. Its ending brings to mind the final notes of "On the Wings of Love."

As for the video, Regine looks smashing in a black and white asymmetrical top although her runny eye makeup is just so cliché. And since the song mentions flying several times, winged creatures make a cameo. Aside from some doves and an angel figurine, there is another "angel" doing an interpretative number. The video ends with a zoom-out revealing the set, which is reminiscent of Travis and "Why Does It Always Rain On Me."

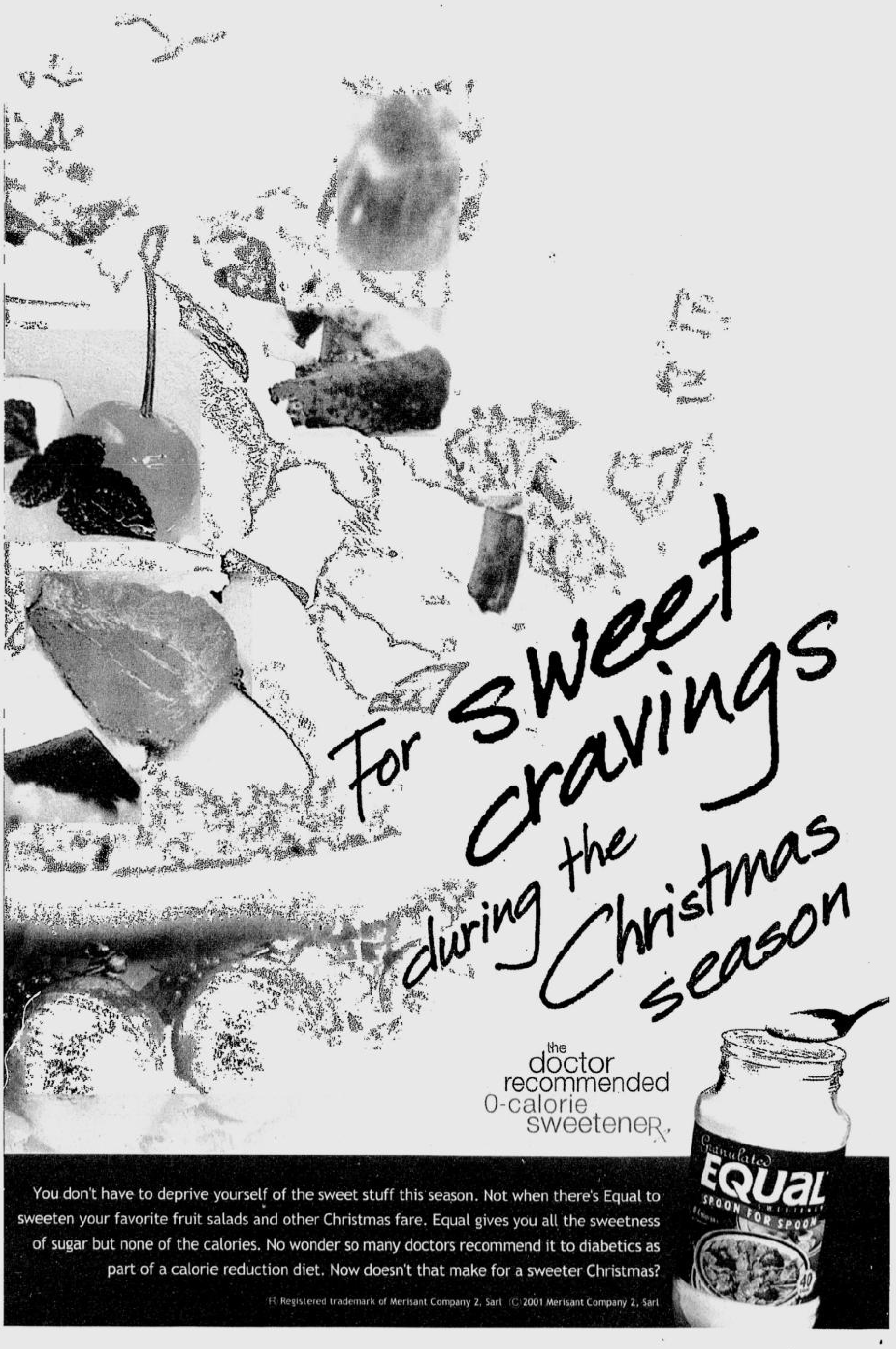
'Umaaraw Umuulan'—Rivermaya

The brand-new five-member Rivermaya has come out with its new album called "Tuloy ang Ligaya." The video for the first track called "Umaaraw Umuulan," which sounds a lot like Suede, has the band in what is supposed to be a desert with a fake mini-garden set complete with white picket fences and flowers. The video is filled with Kodak moment snapshots. My favorite is the one where a band member is typing a love letter on a sanitary napkin.

'Meron Ba'—Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa

Originally done by Nikki Valdez, "Meron Ba" is interpreted this time by the Rosales-Hermosa love team for a more romantic sound. The song has been included in the "Trip" motion picture soundtrack. The video, which is drowned in white and blessed with a major blurry effect, features the lovey-dovey couple flirting with each other on a huge sofa.

For major love team effect, he wears red while she opts for pink. They cap the project by doing an annoying nose-to-nose thing somewhere near the end of the video. How sweet.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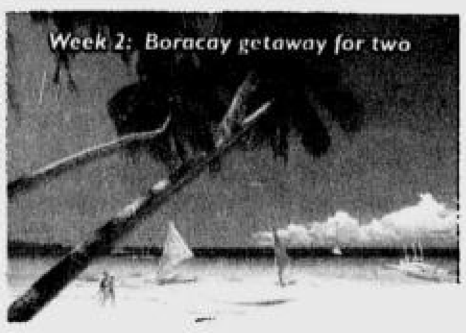
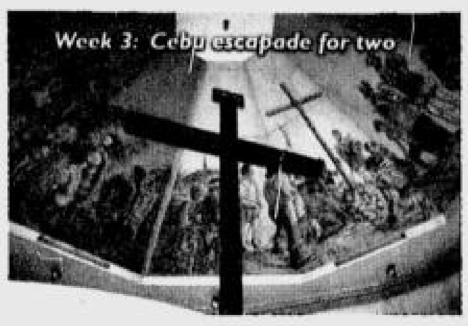
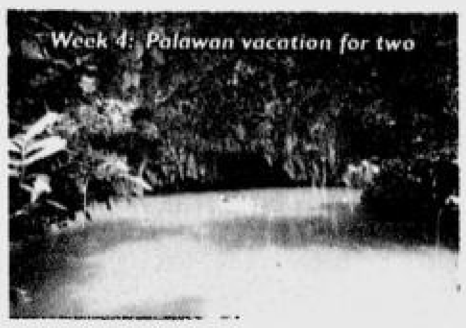

Week 2: Boracay getaway for two


Week 3: Cebu escapade for two


Week 4: Palawan vacation for two

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celebr8
A Globe Get-Together

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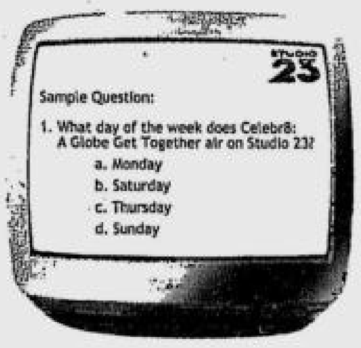
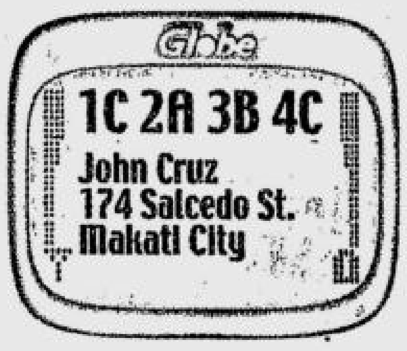


Sample Question:

1. What day of the week does Celebr8: A Globe Get Together air on Studio 23?
   a. Monday
   b. Saturday
   c. Thursday
   d. Sunday

Step 3: Key-in your answer to all four (4) questions, along with your name and address. Follow the format shown below.

Format sample: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address



1C 2A 3B 4C
John Cruz
174 Salcedo St.
Makati City

Step 4: Send your complete set of answers to 2378. The hosts will give you the signal when to start texting in your answers. You qualify for the weekly and grand draw for each text message you send with the correct set of answers.

What else you need to know:

How many times can I send an entry?

You may text in your correct answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text message, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you." Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of P10.00. Watch all four shows and send in as many as 80 correct entries.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answers to all four (4) questions, in each show, are correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the answers with the correct sequence and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

Who will qualify for the weekly and grand draw?

All Globe Handyphone subscribers who texted in the correct answer are qualified in the weekly and grand draws which will be conducted via an Electronic Draw. If you qualify, your Globe Handyphone number will be stored in the database of correct and valid entries and will be included in the Electronic Draw.

Schedule for texting in entries:

For the weekly draw, you may text in your correct answers for each episode until the following day. For the grand draw, you may text in your correct answers until December 11. All correct non-winning entries from the weekly draws are automatically qualified in the grand draw.

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Will they banish Monday morning blues? p.D7

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Music's the thing–although fame will be good, too

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

I LOVE unsigned bands. They are fresh, not commercialized, down-to-earth (most of the time), and still believe that the only people they have to please are themselves. The only drawback is they do not get a share of the spotlight that they deserve.

I can relate because I play the drums and was in a couple of bands (my current band, LoDead, is "hibernating" so I don't think that counts).

But these five bands have come a long way although I still wish they could be seen (and heard) by a larger audience. After all, scoring a record deal is not the *only* measure of talent.

MAYFLOWER

HAPPY Meals

2bU! draws the curtains and places 5 unsigned but promising local bands on centerstage

Happy Meals

Members: Odin Fernandez (vocals), Jorel Corpus* (guitar), Niño Avenido (bass) and King Ramos (drums)

La Música: "We're just generally a rock band."

You might have seen them at: Local bars/clubs, Ateneo gigs (including Orsem night 2001), school fairs (ICA, Poveda, Assumption), Pulp Magazine's April 2000 feature on local bands.

History: Back in their Blue Babble Battalion days in high school, Avenido wanted Corpus to form a band with him—but who was going to play the drums? "One day, we were driving to school and we saw King. We didn't know him but we knew he was a drummer. I stuck my head out of the car, 'King, *tara* let's jam!' " They recruited high school bud Fernandez as well. "We had our first gig *kaagad* (the audition for Miriam High School's variety show). We went without practicing. We didn't make it. (*Laughs*) After that, we felt really bad so we practiced."

The name: "Niño and I were talking over the phone, debating over the name of the band and then Happy Meals came up and we laughed for two minutes straight, so okay!"

Favorite cover song/s: "Coffeeshop" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Favorite original track/s: "Hold Me Down."

What sets them apart from the rest: "I really don't know."

Ambitions: "Of course, I want my band to get signed; otherwise, just to come out with an [independent] EP (extended play), which is what we're doing right now, and then, I still don't know."

Catch them: At the University of the Philippines Diliman on Dec. 14 and at the Assumption Fair on Feb. 8. Download their songs "Turn up the Groove" and "Smokin' Fly" on www.mp3manila.com.

Edgar Allan Hoes

Members: Mike Amodeo (bass/vocals), Marco dela Torre (guitars/vocals) and Paulino Servado* (drums/percussion)

La Música: "Essentially, we are a ska/punk band, but we've fused hardcore, reggae and ska influences. The band's always ready to try new things, so our sound is very spontaneous and constantly evolving."

You might have seen them at: Local clubs/bars, ISM in-school events. They were finalists at the recent Rock n' Stix inter-collegiate competition held at Limits, earning them airtime on MYX and NU107.

Band history: The band met through a mutual friend (their ex-vocalist) back in high school. The vocalist "unfortunately chose a college education in the States over being a 'Hoe'." Their original bassist also did the same. The band is now a trio.

The name: "[It] was actually coined before the band existed. It highlights the band's perpetually humorous side. Marco suggested it to the guys and they liked it. It's been misspelled in posters numerous times."

Favorite cover song/s: "I'm Trying" by Face to Face and "Stupid Kid" by Alakaline Trio.

Favorite original track/s: "She Could Be," "Emotastic" and "The Reggae Beer Song."

What sets them apart from the rest: "The punk scene is very much underground; punk and ska aren't very popular with the exception of a few bands. [What] sets us apart is our dedication to playing our type of music and sticking to it. With all the other bands being sucked into the rap-metal scene, I have to say that we are among the lucky ones."

Ambitions: "Aside from selling out (*Laughs*), I'd like the band to spend more time improving its music. A permanent lineup would be nice, considering we always lose a member to the more attractive option of a college education abroad. Mike will soon be doing the same. [Also] more regular gigs and maybe eventually release a CD. I'd also like to see the band gain respect and be acknowledged (as an exponent of) punk 'cause one thing's for sure—punk is not dead!"

Catch them: At the Save-A-Lot/Hive Café parking lot on Dec. 7 with other UA&P and professional bands, for a charity event. Their official website is www. geocities. com/edgarallanhoes

Lilian

Members: Lily Ann Chu (vocals), Nico Africa (guitars/vocals), Yan Yuzon* (bass/vocals) and Ryan Villena (drums/vocals)

La Música: "*Simpleng* pop rock written with the Filipino listener in mind. Our songs can be likened to the stuff that the groups of the '94 band explosion came up with (Eraserheads, et al)."

You may have seen them at: Local clubs/bars, UP concerts, Valenzuela (where they opened for True Faith). They were also one of the six finalists at last year's RX Band Breakout finals, and their music had been played over RX93.1, NU 107's and The Hive 100.3. All are familiar faces in theater as actress/actors (Yuzon and Villena are directors as well).

Band history: Yuzon and Villena were among the first in their class to play in bands way back in grade school at the Ateneo. Villena's former band, Tungaw, landed a record deal but its members have since forged their own careers. "*Ako naman*, I let go of it 'cause *walang* motivation. When we were graduating [from college] *na*, Ryan and I were blockmates and we felt we wanted to do a band together, so Lilian was born." The sound and band members may have changed over the years "but now, we are what we are."

The name: "No, it's not because our singer's name is Lily Ann (that was really just an eerie-freakish coincidence). Lilian is named after Ryan's *yaya*, who has been with them for [around] 25 years."

Favorite cover song/s: "Glorybox" by Portishead.

Favorite original song/s: "Meron Ba," "Tanga," "FEN," "9-2-Sawa."

What sets them apart from the rest: "Musically speaking, there are hardly any other bands of our kind! *Nauso kasi 'yung* rap-metal and a lot of bands are into that format. As individuals, we have our day jobs and Nico has school, which become the main sources of ideas for our songs. Urban living as you know it—that's

MUSIC'S/ p.D3

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LILIAN

For five new bands, pleasing the audience is what matters—as of now

BOK76

Music's the thing—although fame will be good, too

(From page D2)

what we're about."

Ambitions: "[To] have fun and make people have fun along with us."

Catch them: At UP's Peace Camp three-day gig on Dec. 14-16, and at Elvis (the UP Mountaineers' annual shindig) on Dec. 18. Download their older demos at www.mp3-manila.com.

BOK76

Members: Erwin Bautista (vocals), Donini Montealegre* (guitar/vocals), Owee Nicolas (bass), Elwynn Dayrit (guitars), Jerome Ocampo (drums) and Benjo Villaruz (drums)

La Música: "Since we cannot be classified into one specific rock genre, we call our music Rockersh."

You might have seen them at: Local clubs/bars. They were featured on the television show "Best Friends" in 1999, won third place at the UA&P-organized Battle of the Bands at Cactus Grill last year, were Mp3manila's Dec. 2000 Artist of the Month, and won first place at the Battle of the Bands competition in Queensrow Bacoor, Cavite last October.

Band History: "Erwin, Elwynn and Owee were *barkada* in grade school. [I] joined them in high school, but the band [officially] formed in 1996 during our college days. Jerome came in 1999 and Benjo in 2001."

The name: It was the name of their high school *barkada*.

Favorite cover song/s: "Our own version of 'Balong Malalim.' "

Favorite original track/s: "Tsiks na 'To" and "Kaharian."

What sets them apart from the rest: "We can be very versatile since we have a wide range of influences."

Ambitions: "[To] have a lot of chicks! (*Laughs*) But seriously, we just want to (be able) to tell our children, 'I was once a member of BOK76 and we really rocked back then!'"

Catch them: Download their songs at www.mp3manila.com.

Mayflower

Members: Von Fetalino* (vocals), Paulo Castalone* (guitars), Jaedan Fetalino (guitars/vocals), Glenn dela Cruz* (bass) and Jayden Vida (drums/percussion)

La Música : "*Pinoy* rock *na may* alternative *na parang* Brit pop."

You might have seen them at: Local clubs/bars, mall shows, The Scene and RX Band Breakout gigs. They have opened for Rivermaya and is this year's RX93.1's Band Breakout's first runner-up.

Band history: At AMA Computer College, the Fetalinos were in the same band while Dela Cruz, Vida and Castalone had their own respective bands. In late 1996, the five fused into one.

The name: "*Magandang pakinggan di ba? Nakita namin sa* dictionary, *may* meaning *'yan, mga barko-barko eklat, pero* [for our band], *wala iyon. Lumubog kasi 'yung* Mayflower *eh. Wala lang, maganda lang pakinggan.*"

Favorite cover song/s: Most Brit pop tunes, more specifically, anything by Oasis.

Favorite original song/s: "Kalayaan."

What sets them apart from the rest: "*Walang kaboses si* Von. *Iba 'yung* arrangement *ng kanta namin at tsaka 'yung laman ng* songs *naming lahat* serious. We take our songs seriously."

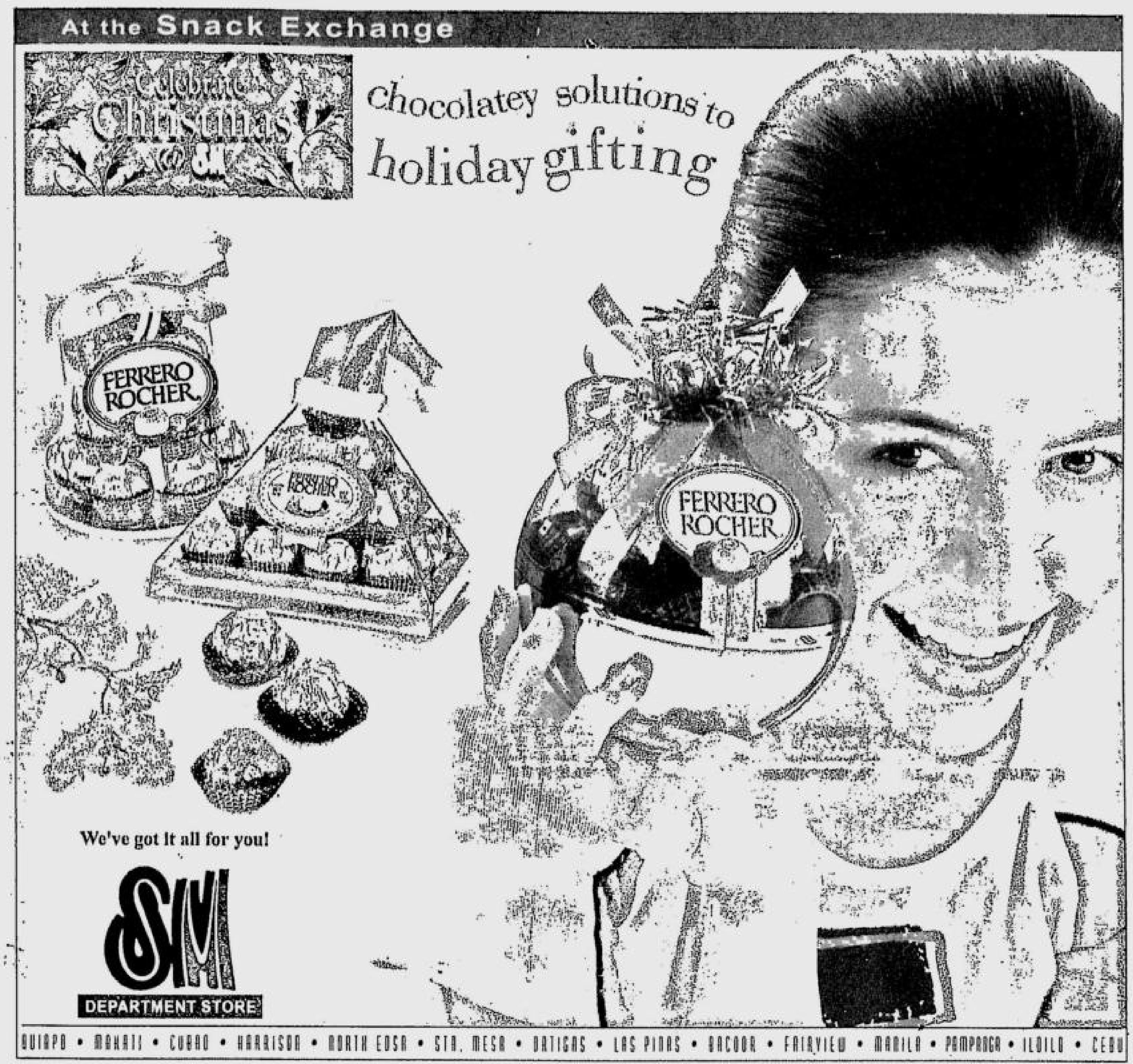
Ambitions: "*Marinig lang 'yung mga kanta namin sa radyo. Magkaroon ng* record, *magustuhan ng tao. 'Yun lang. Tsaka maka-*relate *'yung mga tao; kahit na hindi sumikat na sikat na sikat basta gusto 'yung kanta.*

Catch them: Download their song "Take Me Away" at www.mp3.manila.com. The band's official website is www.mayflowerindie.homestead.com.

Note: *Interviewed

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

EDGAR Allan Hoes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Para sa malilikot ang kamay.

Payphone na nagpapadala ng text messages?

A band weaves magic into their music

By Maui V. Reyes

"STAY a little later," Aia de Leon says while twirling pasta on her fork. "Zach knows a lot of magic tricks he'd like to show you."

The folk-pop-rock band Imago is whiling away time before performing two sets at two different venues. Zach Lucero (drums), Tim Cacho (guitars), Arvin Gatmaitan (bass) and Aia (vocals and guitar) just came from Emerald Street in Ortigas for an "Abbey Road" pictorial-reenactment. Funny thing is, they never imagined themselves crossing the streets with a photographer on the other side of the road when they started the band.

ARVIN

"It was in 1997 when I started looking for a band. Aia was recommended by a friend. Then Aia brought in Michelle (Pritchard, the band's ex-violin player), and then Michelle brought in Arvin, and then I brought Tim in from college," Zach explains. "We just jammed. Actually, Francis Reyes was once part of the band but when Tim came in, Francis got insecure."

And what has kept the members from clashing with each other? To start off, their sound was more of an accident than a master plan. "We weren't striving to be a punk band, or a rock band," Tim says. They did, however, agree they were not jumping into the show band pool—but instead, spent their time jamming and pitching different musical preferences into each session. "It was a nice surprise," Aia shares. "You just jam and be like, 'Hey, let's try this,' and it works out."

Another surprise was how the name came about. As Aia walks down memory lane, she laughs at the frustrations the band went through in forming its name. "Zach even wanted to name the band 'Spaz!' " she cries. "For around three months, we didn't have a name," Tim says. "I was reading a book, 'Silence of the Lambs,' and it's that thing they found in the girl's throat. If you look it up in the dictionary, you'll find two definitions." Bottom line? Who cares about the meaning—they just like the way it sounds.

And people like the sounds of Imago. Once known as a "folk-pop" band that played at bars and select events, the group recently released their debut album, "Probably Not, But Most Definitely," under Viva Records, with 17 tracks of fillers and music on lessons in life. After years of hearing teasers like their single "Alay" on radio, the band is finally reaching out to a wider audience with their home-grown sound and heartbreaking lyrics about life, love and self.

And magic.

Didn't you initially want to release your album independently?

Aia: Well, here's what happened. We recorded a demo, around five songs. We gave it to many record companies.

Zach: That was in 1999, one of the weakest years for bands. No one got signed the past two years. Everybody was into boy bands. Record companies were squeezing everything out of boy bands, even in the States. And I read about this thing that there was a circular going around record companies in the States that in the next two years they'll be signing bands. It's like a fad. During our time, they weren't signing bands. We wanted to have an album so we went to Bob Avez and Grace Nono. They produced it and started selling it to record companies. We recorded that album for a year, and by the time it was finished, we got signed.

Aia: Actually, the process was separate from the record company. It was also produced independently.

Was the whole process difficult?

Zach: Yes. First of all, *taga*-Parañaque *kami*, and he lives in Roosevelt. (Laughter)

Aia: It takes two hours to get to his place!

Tim: But in terms of the workplace, it was good. Because it was stretched out for a year. So you have time to think about what you want to do. It wasn't a rushed job.

Arvin: You have time to change something in music, in case you're not happy with what was done.

Aia: He was also recording other artists' albums, so *hati-hati kami sa* time. The time was spread out. And he doesn't record late in the evening or early morning. He records in the afternoon, so *talagang naka*-schedule *kami*.

What was the audience's initial reaction when you first played?

Zach: The very first gig, we were a bunch of amateurs. For me, when I see an amateur band, it's like, "Uh, okay." I wanna see them when they're really tight. I wanna see them when they have experience. *Di namin alam ang timpla eh, may naghihilahan sa* sound…

Arvin: If they had a thought bubble it would say, "Uh…"

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Tim: And they always thought, "Oh. Corrs."

Because of the violin.

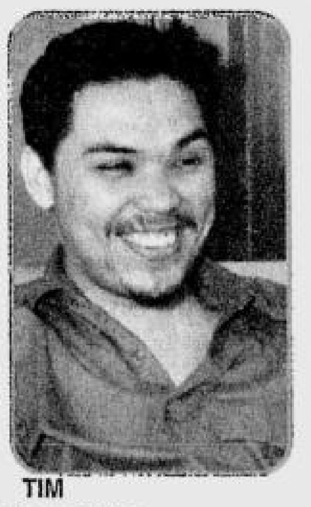
Zach: If you're asking what their initial reaction was when we were tight *na*, it was really good. It's also good to play around before releasing an album, because the anticipation of people is there. *Parang*, "*Uy, magkaka*-album *na sila*!" Not like, "Hey, who's this band? I've never heard about them."

Aia, what moves you to write?

Aia: (Laughs)

Zach: We all chip in to the music part.

Aia: *Minsan, may makikialam. Parang*, "Tim, *gawin mo ito*!" *Pero 'pag kay* Zach… "*Ayoko nga*!" Um, *siguro* every experience. *Parang alam mo na kinurot ka na lang ng* experience. *May* itch *kang gawin 'yon, eh*. Let's see, when you're a girl, you talk about things that concern you. Your relationships with other people, how you see the world at this point. But it's all at this point. Everything is written at a certain age, so it may mean that a few years later, I can contradict what I wrote before. So '*yung nilalaman din ng* material is very much dependent on the time frame.


TIM

Have you ever written about something you've never experienced?

Aia: Yeah, "Unwed Wife." That's not first-hand info. I was watching The Discovery Channel and it was about this tribe in South Africa. And '*yung* girls *sa* village *dinadala sa* high priest to become wives. So they're isolated there.

Zach: They use them to pay debts.

Aia: And all under the pretense that the gods wanted this to happen. *Siyempre ako*, concerned. *Parang*, more universal '*yung* realization. *Biruin mo, problema ko ngayon, nagugutom ako, pero* on the other side of the world there are people who don't care about your problems. It's like I'm this insignificant, but at the same time, I still matter.

What's with all the fillers in the album?

Aia: It was my idea. *Kasi* feeling poet *ako*. I just felt like doing it because I wanted to have fun in another dimension. Aside from singing, *mahilig din naman ako magkuwento-kuwento*. It's just my way of sharing another part of me with other people *na parang*, "*Kung kakausapin ninyo ako, ganito ako magsalita*." So it's nothing like, "Oh my gosh, I'm such a poet!" *Nanggagago lang*.

AIA

Before you go onstage, what do you normally do?

Zach: *Si* Aia, masungit. *Kabado. Di mo makausap.*

Aia: *Kasi alam mo* '*yung* feeling *na nabanyo ka*? *Kabado ka na, tapos ang bilis pa tumibok ang puso mo, tapos di mo na maramdaman ang kamay mo, ang lamig, tapos di mo alam kung kaya mong hawakan ang gitara mo. Tapos bigla na lang*, "Hi Aia!" '*Wag muna*!' *Kasi baka bigla na lang ma-banyo ako* onstage! But I always burp onstage. Arvin *naman*, beer *lang*.

Arvin: Me? I just want to make sure I'm in tune before a gig.

Aia: Among the four of us, he's the quietest. Tim and Zach? Oh my God… When they start talking and joking about the dumbest things…

Arvin: *Si* Zach *naman, walang* in-between mode. When he gets to the venue, he bangs on the drums right away. *Tapos na ang* sound check, *nandoon pa rin sa* drums.

Aia: *Nakakakaba*! *Akala mo*, time *na tumugtog kasi si* Zach onstage *na*.

Best and worst gig?

Zach: The worst would be in Vigan. We went there by van, *tapos pagdating doon*, they were conditioned to see a party show band. They were expecting something else. We were psyched up *na, tapos ganoon 'yung mga* in-expect *nilang banda*.

Aia: *Tapos may mga taong nakadungaw sa bintana, sumisigaw lang. Eh di sigaw din ako.*

Tim: Baguio *namin*. Four strings in 15 minutes, *sumabog pa 'yung* amp. And we can't play *kasi ang lamig-lamig*.

Arvin: For me, being selfish, I think I played well.

Zach: *Si* Arvin *naman*, worst gigs, *kung may* girls *na ayaw niyang makita nandon*. And '*yung* PULP Summer Slam. Because we were asked to go at 8, but we ended up playing at 2.

ZACH

Aia: And there were two set-ups on one stage. You can't cover the other side of the stage, so while a band plays on one side, you're setting up on the other. So people get distracted. Especially *kung kilala mo 'yung bandang nagsi*-set-up. *Eh di parang*, "*Uuuuuy si ganyan*!" *Eh di dedma ka na*!

Zach: I can't think of the best gig, because you have to cherish each and every gig as if it's your last. Put that down, okay?

Arvin: *Ako*, Freedom Bar. *Wala si* Zach, *nasa* Davao. *May* session drummer *kami*.

Back then raves were the "in" thing, now it's chill-out lounges. Do you think that change would affect music?

Zach: I hope so. I mean, it's been rave ever since!

Aia: It's good if people start to appreciate good Filipino music. Because we are all part of each other's success.

Arvin: Mark from Rivermaya posted something like, *ang liit-liit na nga ng* scene for bands, *wala pang masyadong nagsu*-support. *Napaka*-important *ng* thought, because we're in the Philippines, and yet on top of the charts are foreign artists.

Zach: But Philippine artists are also patterned after those in the States, unless you're like Joey Ayala.

Tim: But that doesn't mean just because they're patterned means they're better.

Aia: And there are a lot of distractions now. For example, cell phones. Kids would rather buy prepaid cards and Internet cards than buy a CD. *Pero ang daming magaling eh*… From Barbie's Cradle to Side A… They put a lot of energy into this yet they go unnoticed.

Where do you usually hang out at night?

Aia: Big Sky Mind. *Sina* Tim, Pete's Place!

Tim: Yeah, usually if we're coming from a gig. It's a nice place to go for drinking and hanging out, and it's close to home.

Arvin: Usually the place we're playing in.

Aia: 70's Bistro. Or *kung saan malapit*, wherever we are, if there's someone playing. Problem is, there aren't that many places to play in.

Zach: I'm so sick of it *na, eh*. I wish something different would happen. Something has to happen.

Who would you like to collaborate with?

Zach: Joey Ayala.

Arvin: Itchyworms.

Aia: *Ako marami*. Fatal Posporos.

Zach: Michael Jackson. I'll dress up as a little boy.

Aia: *Ang dami kasi ng* musicality. Everyone offers something different.

Zach: *Lahat gusto naman* à la "We are the World."

Do you see Imago crossing over to another genre of music?

Zach: Yes! Like reggae!

Aia: *Marami kaming* interests.

Arvin: The point is, we don't want to concentrate on just one type of music. I mean, second albums are not supposed to sound like the first. But feeling *ko* there's going to be a major difference. Like U2, when they come out with a different album, it sounds different but you know it's U2.

Zach: We want to experiment.

Who's in your CD player right now?

Zach: *Ako*, Basement Jaxx.

Tim: Itchyworms, Kenny G…

***Dami mong* CD player *ha*.**

Aia: *Kasi maraming kotse*!

Tim: Kasi 6-track CD changer *eh*! (Laughs) *Sa* house *naman*, in my computer, it's a jazz CD.

Arvin: *Ako* MP3 junkie *ako*.

Tim: *Tapos sa* compo *ko*… Sinatra, Kenny Rogers…

Aia: Well, Sinatra, Jeff Buckley…

Arvin: Nine Inch Nails *nga pala ako*.

Zach: Oooh, *pampalalim*. Don't write that down. (Laughs)

Aia: Bis and Galaxy 500.

Zach: Can you put that down when I say, 'Put that down,' okay?

Zach and Arvin start throwing remarks at each other, arguing over a Sprite can's colors while Aia and Tim look on. In their future gigs, they'll be sharing a different kind of tune that will surely catch the audience off-guard. It's only a matter of time and an open ear to catch the spirit of Imago's music.

Zach pulls out his black box of cards and trinkets as his band relaxes.

"I'm gonna show you some magic," he says while taking out a deck of cards.

Now there's something Imago already has. Magic.

Imago will be playing at the NU 107 Rock Awards on Dec. 6, and at the Pulp Freak Show on Dec. 8. Their debut album, "Probably Not, But Most Definitely," is now out under Viva Records

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Rock, 'chopsuey' style

(From page D8)

akin, masyadong maingay… Kunwari, tapos sa kanya iba. And then '*yung ibang* songs, *si* Jal *naman 'yung magsisimula ng* bass line.

Joey: It's like this. Someone comes up with a riff, a lyric or a sound, and it gets mutated by the rest of us. So all of us contribute something to the final product but, of course, someone started it.

The songs you write are mostly about what?

Mon Mon: My childhood? (Laughs)

Vin: Stuff that goes on every day. *Wala kaming* intention *mag*-preach or anything. It happens. Like "Untitled 4." That story of Jane happens every day.

What was it like recording the album on your own?

Joey: Tiring. (Laughs) And fun. Because we had to do a lot of sacrifices, because of work, because of time that was spent. And to go to Kris' place in Fairview? It's kind of far from where we are. And, of course, it cost a lot, because of the studio, we had to record the drums and the bass there. But we cut costs, too. We're really grateful for Buddy Zabala, he produced it and offered a lot of advice on the sound.

Jal: Even wrote some lyrics. (Laughs)

How long did it take to record the EP?

Vin: A week. Half-a-day to record Jal's bass, half a day for everyone's parts. The bonus track, we recorded it live in a studio—it took us around three hours. Flip '*yun si* Raimund *eh. Akala namin* we're going to layer the sounds. So *ako*, 'Raimund, *sino una*?' *tapos siya*, '*Anong una*? *Sampa na kayong lahat*!'

Joey: It was all direct to the board.

Jal: There weren't even any amps. Just a pre-amp.

Vin: Actually *ang hindi alam ng tao ay ang buong* EP, *wala kaming ginamit na* amp.

Joey: It was all straight to the board. It wasn't how I really wanted to record, but because of constraints we had to do that. That's why we tip our hats to Buddy Zabala because it sounds really well.

Vin: If there was one person to credit for the EP, it would be Buddy. Because we just wanted a demo but he was like, "*Pare, ito na 'yon, eh*."

Jal: And *sa kanya 'yung* hardware, *eh. Sabi niya*, '*Bakit* two songs *lang*? *Sulitin ninyo na*!"

Vin: Raimund said, 'Seven songs *na 'yan, dagdagan ninyo na ng tatlo, eh di* album *na*.' We didn't want to, though.

Why?

Vin: *Kasi* teaser *lang*.

Joey: It was really meant to be a teaser. Hopefully people would want more. So when the album comes out, we've already got a fan base.

Jason: And when we release the album, *gusto namin mas malaki 'yung sakop ng* musical tastes *namin. Gusto namin sa* album, *lahat kami may mas maraming* input, *para talagang chopsuey 'yung labas*.

Jal: It's a never-ending process. *Nagsasawa ka sa ginagawa mo*, you always want something new. After recording, we were playing in a different way *na eh*. We were discovering new things while recording. It's something positive because we captured it, and it's also negative because we captured it. *Parang, ano, magpapa*-limit *na lang ba tayo doon sa* EP?

Vin: And Ferdie Balanag, without him, the EP wouldn't be what it is… *sobrang laki ng tulong niya sa amin*!

Why do you not want to be signed with a label?

Vin: We're not anti-label. *Wala kaming* stand *na parang*, "Sell-out *ka kung nasa* label *ka*." There are perks when you get signed up—you get a good recording studio, get distributed. But there are a bunch of reasons we don't want to be signed. [Labels] own the copyright to the songs, they can do whatever they want to with the songs—they can reject songs, they can dictate when you put in the album, what you should look like. Bands are getting really bad deals. They're not getting their due. '*Pag nakakita ako ng* contract *na nirirefer sa akin, ang sama talaga. Pati* band name, *sa* label *na*. Then you can't go into merchandising, *dahil sa kanila na 'yon. Hindi ka puwede pumasok sa* Internet without their consent. In a nutshell, the label lends you P300,000 for an album, and they own your songs, they own the band name, they own everything, and you can't get royalties until they recoup the P300,000. Like Sugarfree. *Ang tagal-tagal na, wala pa rin, 'di pa ma*-release '*yung* album. Even if you're under a major label, you still work. Sometimes some artists under major labels do most of the work. So it doesn't matter if you're signed or not. *Kailangan kumayod ka.*

Joey: Basically we just want control over our music.

Vin: And right now, Viva used around three-fourths of our song in the movie, "Dos Ekis," without our permission. *Nakakainis 'yung ganon eh*. And now settlement *na lang*. It's that whole copyright thing. It's like pirating our song. And every time that movie is run, our song gets pirated again and again.

Would you advise aspiring musicians to just release albums independently?

Vin: Yeah, find a way. We're anti-bad deals. If they want to sign up, well and good. But they should know what they are giving up, what they don't want to give up. And it shouldn't be the end deal. It's not like, "*Banda tayo, pag*-end *ng year hindi pa tayo* signed, disband *na tayo*."

Jal: Most record companies give only a small percentage of royalties to bands. The highest I've seen is 7 percent, and I think 7 percent is not fair for someone who invested blood, sweat and tears in composing, arranging and recording it. And then you'll get only 7 percent per unit. That's sad.

Vin: *Dapat naman talaga may bumalik sa* label, I mean, that's right, *Pero* 7 percent?

You've already established a fan base by playing live a lot. What goes through your head while playing live?

Joey: *Si* Mon-Mon *ganito*—"*Uy, ang ganda 'non ha*! Sexy!"

TWISTED HALO. Mon, Jal, Jason, Joey and Vin PHOTO: JOAN BONDOC

Mon Mon: Um… *Oo, 'yon, 'yon*!

Jason: *Hirap eh*. Because the thing is, whenever we play our songs, we first want to please ourselves. Because if you don't like what you're doing, if you don't like the end product of the song, what's the point? The thing with a three-guitar band is that there are so many possibilities. And the problem is, not a lot of people in clubs appreciate it. *Ako*, personally, *parang, kunwari, sa* audience, *sana may nakapansin na maganda 'yung* guitar solo *ni* Joey, or bass line *ni* Jal. *Ako* personally, I just want someone to listen out there. *Kasi kaming tatlo naman, hindi naman kami* exhibitionist *tulad ni* Van Halen *mag*-solo.

Joey: Me? Just that I'm in tune. That I'm hitting the right notes.

Jal: *Ako bawat ibang* gig, *iba siya. Hindi mo kinokopya 'yung* EP. *Simula nung na*-involve *ako sa* music, with Session Road even before, there is some kind of magic that happens whenever you get onstage, which you shouldn't be limited by. You're not limited to doing something again and again. We try to change things depending on the mood, on the audience. Sometimes I have this idea where I know none of the other members have, but then at some certain point we just meet. '*Yung tinatawag na* dynamics *na walang* intention '*yung* band, *pero* somewhere *nagmi*-meet *sila, na puwede may* harmony *na mangyari, may* second voice *na mangyari*. There's always something magical that could happen during that gig. And then afterward, the sad part about it is that you can't even recall how it happened.

Joey: Like that sound check *sa* '70s!

Jal: *Kasi* you can feel that people are moving together. And then afterward '*pag natapos na, parang*, "What the hell was that?" and you always hope it was recorded, *kaso hindi eh. Sayang.*

Vin: I get a kick out of seeing people baffled. People don't know what to make of it. I get worried when I see people "moshing" and kids hurting each other. Like there was this one gig *sa* Marikina riverbank. *May mga* kids *sa* crowd *na may hawak na supot ng* pee *tapos tinatapon sa* stage, *tapos may nagsusuntukan na. Kasi* kids have this notion *na*, "*Pare*, mosh pit *tayo, tapos sikuhin natin 'yung katabi natin*." *Ang labo. Umalis na lang kami. Tapos nalaman na lang namin na may nasaksak na bata. Sa akin, 'pag tumutugtog, sige, mag*-pogo-hopping *kayo diyan, sumayaw kayo*. But I get worried when kids start to mosh. Other than that, I just think *na ang sarap-sarap tumugtog*.

You're playing at this year's (NU) Rock Awards. What are your expectations?

Mon-Mon: We will win the band of the year!

Jason: We're not nominated. But in our hearts, we are still band of the year!

Mon Mon: *Ako* since *nagsimula 'yung* Rock Awards, *nanonood na ako ng* Rock Awards. So '*yung* high school *pa lang ako*, college *ako, gusto ko na tumugtog do'n*, so it's so exciting for me. So I'm very honored.

Jal: Excited. Thinking that we have to practice! It's an honor to play at the Rock Awards. That's something very overwhelming. *Kasi* we started just a year and a half ago, and things that are happening now are so overwhelming to the point that in a year-and-a-half, *meron ka nang* EP, *meron ka nang* fan base… *Kahit na tatlo lang silang* fans.

Who would you want to see perform?

Jason: What I like about being in the Rock Awards this year is the fact that we'll be in good company. Pretty much everyone in the roster are our friends—I'm also playing for Sandwich, by the way! (Laughs) Like that gig last Thursday… Imago, Itchyworms, Sandwich. *Parang* 'Family Values Tour' *nangyari*. I'm looking forward to seeing our friends play in a different setting. *Na naka-bihis talaga*…

Mon Mon: *Kailangan naka-bihis*! *Mag*-shirtless *sana ako eh*…

Vin: Excited *si* Mon.

Jason: *Iba ang* environment. And it's an awards show!

Twisted Halo will be performing at tomorrow's NU 107 Rock Awards, on Dec. 7 at Ateneo, Dec. 10 and 23 at Mayric's, on Dec. 17 at UA&P and on Dec. 21 at Freedom Bar.

Get a copy of their EP at Big Sky Mind, during gigs, or contact Anna at (0917) 945-6485 or e-mail whiteonyellow@yahoo.com. Join the Twisted Halo mailing list at twistedhalo_subscribe@yahoogroups.com

E-mail the author at girl.from.mars@freeallangels.com

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Shooting Rivermaya in the desert sand

The making of a music video is a stunning experience for Rivermaya

PHOTOGRAPHER Miguel Matute goes on the road with Rivermaya on the shoot of their new music video, "Umaaraw, Umuulan" from the "Tuloy ang Ligaya" album. Directed by Lyle Sacris, and featuring Rico Blanco, Mike Elgar, Kakoi Legaspi, Japs Sergio and Mark Escueta of Rivermaya.

RICO Blanco

Day 1

3:30 a.m.—Groggy, sleepy, cold and more than a bit out of it—but it's time to get ready for the day's work. Breakfast tastes more like a midnight snack at this hour.

4:15 a.m.—Stepping into the desert location, I know right away that we are in a brilliant place as I can see endless sand dunes rising out toward the distant horizon and on the opposite side, the ocean. The view is simply amazing! The music video shoot is really going to be a trip as the setting has become so surreal so fast.

5:25 a.m.—Rivermaya tumble out of a giant tour bus and I can see from their faces that they are all uniformly stunned at the sight.

The first scene shot goes to Japs Sergio (bass player) who's playing a record on an ancient brass gramophone in a bit of land surrounded by mostly water and a lone tree centering the main frame.

6 a.m.—The whole band is next in the middle of the burning hot desert. There's a patch of green grass lined by a white picket fence on three sides and a drum kit on the last side. Flowers of many kinds and colors with tiny windmills and flamingos and Alice in Wonderland-like mushrooms adorn the saturated look and feel of the scene.

2:30 p.m.—Next up on film is Rico Blanco (lead vocals), nonchalantly walking past a tower of five toilets, piled on top of each other and in different colors. His next bit is another dreamlike scene running through the desert to get to a real-life phone booth, with a telephone ringing in it. This is another great scene—a constantly moving picture that I have to capture with stills.

4:30 p.m.—It is Mark Escueta's (drummer) turn at the opposite end of the pine forest with a gumball machine.

The sun is starting to set and everyone is rushing to get everything in place. (I can't remember how many gumballs I have eaten but after everyone has had a fair share of gum, the scene is finally shot!) Lyle asks Mark to do this a few times before sending everybody back to the oasis to shoot the band playing once again before losing all natural light.

Everyone is fairly exhausted by now and we dilly-dally to catch our breath by pointing out the flocks of birds that fly constantly above us in jet-fighter formation.

5:30 p.m.—Daylight has pretty much ended and even the purple clouds in the sky are disappearing if not already gone.

8 p.m.—Shower, dinner, but everyone calls it an early night for the day has been insanely draining and tomorrow is another day.

Day 2

6 a.m.—I secretly celebrate how much longer I have to sleep, compared to the previous day's punishing schedule. Arriving at the strange location now feels oddly familiar. Kakoi is next on the scene—there is a rocking chair in about knee-high water, a television set floating above the water's surface and a round goldfish bowl—with an orange fish in it. When it's over, Kakoi is wet, barefoot and in need of rest.

2:50 p.m.—Mike is up next but as his scene includes being buried in chest-deep desert sand, we all just sit around lazily while the hole is being dug up. Mike rests on a deck chair with his head down, Kakoi plays different Stevie Ray Vaughan songs and a couple of Clapton and Hendrix songs while we both sing along. Ody (Flores, the vid's cinematographer) is also here; playing with Mike's guitar and learning some stuff that Kakoi is teaching him. It's a great moment watching Rivermaya's guitarists play songs at our request—and being taught how to play them!

4:45 p.m.—Lyle has the band do one more go at a performance shot as the sun is about to set. Jumping, head banging, Rivermaya plays for the last time for at the now-windswept oasis—with as much energy as if they've just had a good 24 hours of sleep instead of toiling in the desert for the last 12 hours. They keep going like Energizer bunnies until there is no light left for us to film.

KAKOI Legaspi

KAKOI Legaspi on guitars, Rico 'Blanco on vocals and guitars, Mark Escueta on drums, Japs Sergio on bass and Mike Elgar, on drums

MIKE Elgar

'Non-musicians' work on their first album

By Yan Yrastorza Yuzon

I AM finally doing a record with my band, Lilian, and I feel fine.

You may be wondering who we are. We are just four ordinary guys (three guys and a girl, actually) who have been playing original pop rock material together for the past two or so years.

We are not musicians in the strictest sense, because we cannot write down "musician" on the column for occupation in the tax forms (we have day jobs and are proud of them). We are not rock stars as we do not wreck hotel rooms or get arrested for carrying contraband, and have no zillions of screaming fans. What we are are people just like you (or unlike you if you are a musician or rock star), with some songs and hard-earned money, and lots and lots of faith. Oh, and throw in the very well-equipped recording studio in the mix, too.

Lilian is . . .

Before I talk about the project, let me introduce the band. As the byline says, my name's Yanny Yuzon. I play the bass but my regular 9-to-6 job is to write and edit copy for FWD magazine as its associate editor. What remains of my day I spend in theater work. Ex-Tungaw drummer, percussion "sessionist" for the likes of Indio-I and Tropical Depression, and Harry Potter look-alike in denial, Ryan Villena is Lilian's drummer and my songwriting partner in crime, whenever he isn't teaching Filipino classes at the Ateneo High School.

Our guitarist, Nico Africa, on the other hand, is currently in second-year college also at the Ateneo. Our "frontman," Lily Ann Chu (the band isn't named after her, it's purely coincidental), is a theater actress, model and hotel-restaurant specialist when she isn't working up the crowd. Not the charmed, larger-than-life pop star routine for us, as you may observe—not that a charmed, larger-than-life pop star routine is what we're shooting for with our album in the works (working title: "Day Off").

Let me tell you—and this is bottom line—it's been great hitting the studio. Having the chance to sit down, conceptualize and reconceptualize the stuff you've been doing live and actually hear the tracks progress before your very ears is a very welcome change of scenery for the four of us. We've been doing the rounds in and around town on the perpetual, nonsponsored Lilian bar tour, moving from gig to gig, plugging and playing sans the usual horde of roadies, basically having loads of sheer, unadulterated fun and meeting all sorts of interesting people. We've played the "pass the demo" game with everyone from the top record exec to the lowliest foot soldier, which has also been fun (like hide-and-seek can be fun, and it is), but hey—we want a record, and we aren't gonna wait much longer.

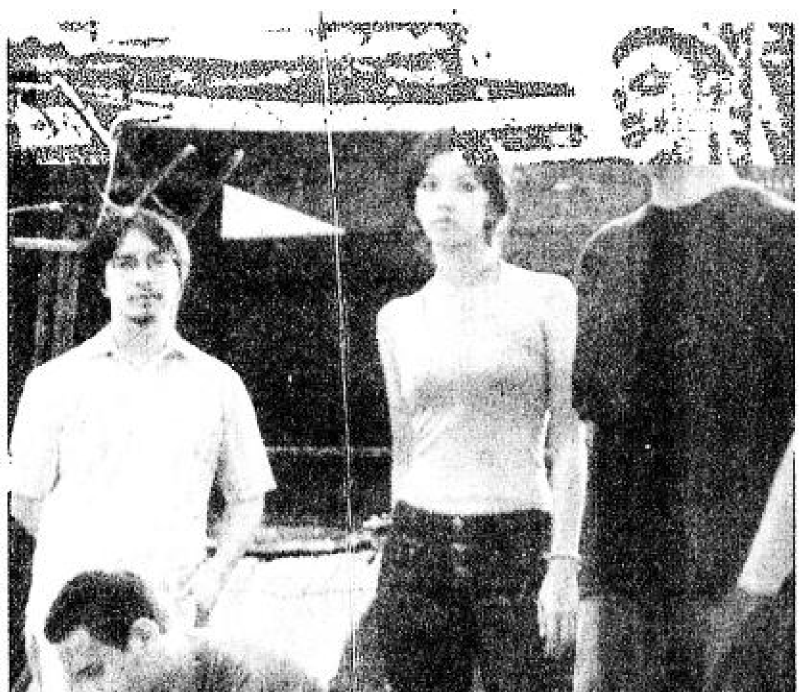
Jiant awakens

And so, our two-man management team (made up of our buddies, Akong Bongcaras and Jay Ignacio, guitarist for DaPulis) formed Jiant Music. In theory a record company, Jiant Music is practically an artist management company that produces albums for its clients (that's us) as an "added service".

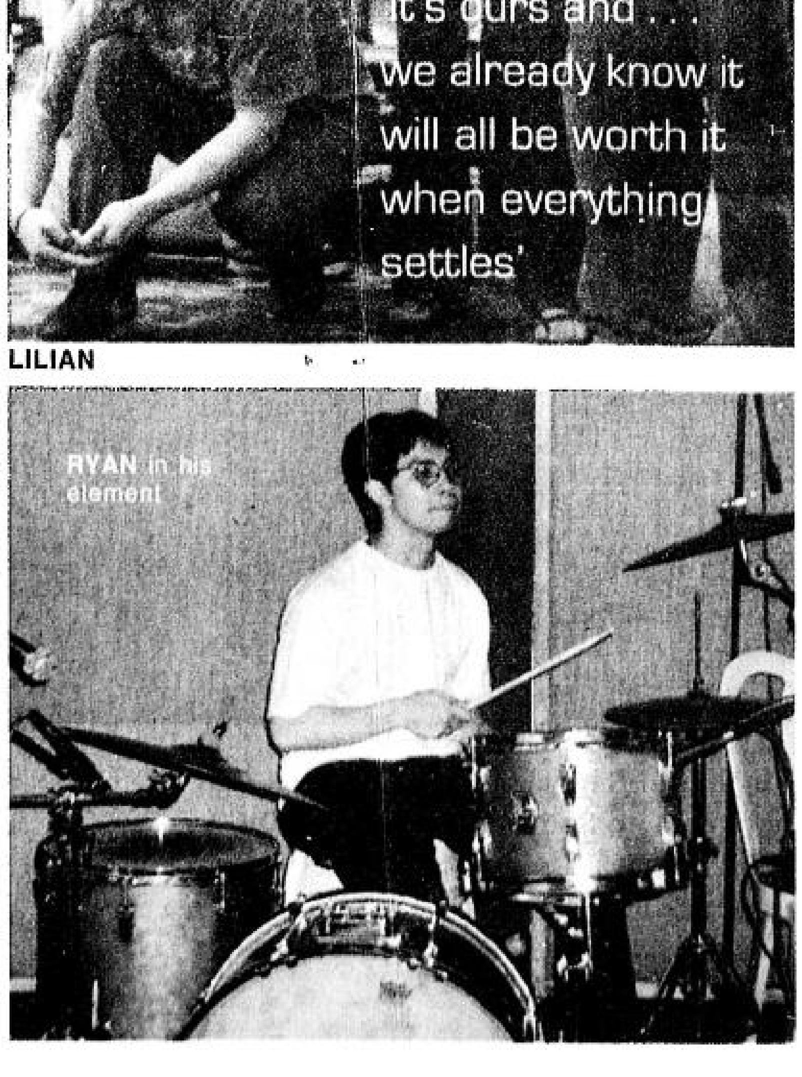
In principle, Jiant and Lilian are doing the exact opposite of what a big record company does. The product becomes the live gig, the promo scheme becomes the selling and marketing of the 12-song album. Of course, the "sales and marketing" responsibilities fall into the hands of friends, friends of friends, girlfriends and boyfriend (*kung meron...*), classmates, ex-classmates and relatives to the umpteenth degree. Hey, it's a small world, after all.

This friendly setup has its advantages. For one, there's no record company bigwig, unsympathetic to the band's creative sensibilities, hovering about and breathing down our necks, fussing about everything from the choice of songs to our friggin' haircuts. We are on our own turf, and we do everything on our terms.

Also, while it seems dumb to be spending for everything, we'll end up getting our deserved "financial payback" when the sweet dough starts rolling in (if it ever does). This scenario is not easily achievable in the big stakes, high-risk corporate recording setting where "royalty" does not usually refer to anything royal.


'It's ours and . . . we already know it will all be worth it when everything settles'

LILIAN


RYAN in his element

RYAN and Lily

Sounds good to us

Don't let the company-client lingo obscure the reality that the making of "Day Off" takes place mostly in an almost carefree environment. We crash into the studio in Intramuros after hours (yes, we chose the scenic production route) and lay tracks one by one. While one records his or her portions in a song, the rest of us stick around and play the other parts with our instruments to guide him or her along for feel. Hearing the parts by themselves can be quite exciting, and a shared joy hovers around the nearly a thousand-buck-an-hour room whenever a good take is accomplished. Imagine our exhilaration at a *great* take.

Sometimes, the process gets tedious and we get stuck in a rut—not a good thing to when your bills pile up before your very eyes. It can get as grueling (and glorious, mind you) as childbirth sometimes and, in a sense, childbirth is really a good description for the recording process, to a degree. These songs are our babies; they have been from their moment of "conception." There truly is a lot at stake every night. Good thing we're used to working under pressure, and sometimes drum-track a whopping eight songs in no more than four hours. So far, so good.

Throughout a typical night, we have our usual fast-food feast (usually delivered unless it's *that* late) and other breaks (bathroom, thinking, *yosi*) in between. It's really as rock star-ish as we get. We let it all hang out at the studio's veranda on the third floor. In our magnificent location a block away from the Manila Cathedral, we plan our next moves and marvel at the splendid view of The Walled City at near-dawn.

In contrast to the very urban faces of the buildings we call office, school and home in the daytime, this glorious environment almost makes us feel as if we're cutting a record overseas, somewhere in Latin America, "to get away from it all" like any capricious Monster of Rock would. Then the producer (Jay, also our manager) motions for us to come back in and lay more brick in the house of our pop rock dreams.

Future not-so-tense

Call us crazy, but yeah, we've gone over the pros and cons of this unorthodox setup time and again, together and individually, and we're still for it all the way. Fact is this alternative method of making (or breaking) a record offers no guarantees save for one: You end up having your record after all. "Day Off" might sell hundreds of thousands of copies, or it might sell 659, at least (we've been keeping a list of "pledged" buyers). Either way, it's ours, and even if right now we're only halfway through the making of what to us will be the No. 1 pop rock record of all time, we already know it will all be worth it when everything settles.

Say we've gone indie minus the usual low-budget sound. Say that in good punk measure, we took the initials DIY (that's do-it-yourself to you, spiffy) a tad too seriously. Say we've gone absolutely and irrevocably insane. To you we say thanks, you're right. The album should be out by February next. Go buy it! Hey, it's only rock 'n' roll.

See how far the DIY principle took us? The bassist's the one who writes the articles!

E-mail your comments and suggestions, or add your precious name to our continuing list of pledged buyers at yan_yuzon@hotmail.com

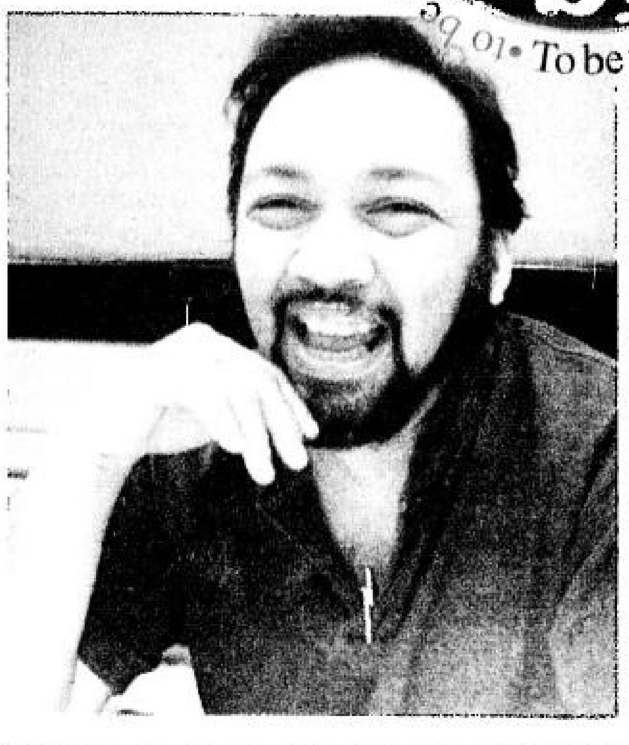
LILY and Yanny

Will they banish Monday morning blues?

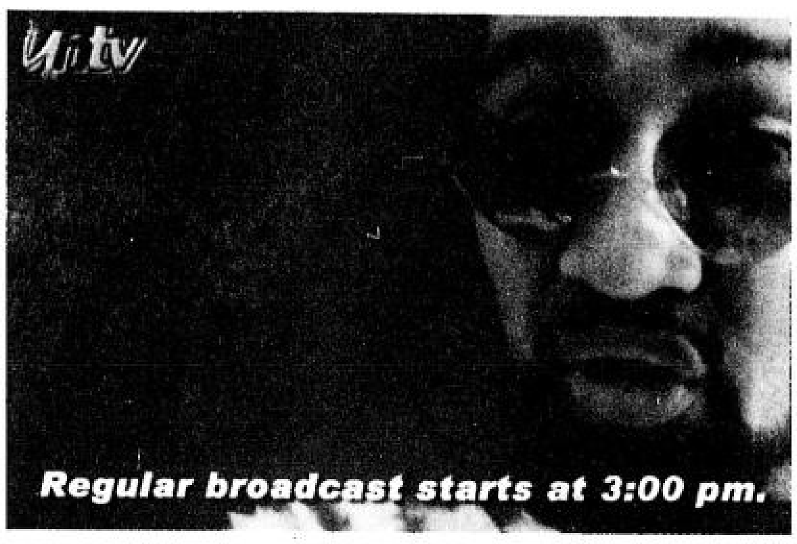
By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

MEET the VJ Class of 2001. Paul, the misunderstood "rebel-or-boy-next-door"; Anna, sweet and adorable who everybody wants to be with; Derek, Mr. Perfect who every man wants to be like; and Arlo, the admirable fanatic who knows every bit of music. They provide a good reason to wake up happy on a Monday morning.

NAME: Anna Christina Shier. **Age:** 22. **Credits:** MTV VJ, model etc. **On what life does not teach you:** "I knew what I wanted to do with my life and I knew where I wanted to go... When I think about it I truly don't know what my future's going to be."



NAME: Arlo. **Age:** "Not that old!" **Credits:** Host of Untv's "Out of Time." **On the Pinoy rock scene:** "There's a really stable scene where bands have real recording contracts and don't have to perform only in village clubhouses and school gyms..."



Boy next door

Pinoy-Brit Paul joins the long list of MYX VJs, replacing fellow Englishman John Eastwood who suddenly disappeared when the show was still warming up. Born in London, Paul, known in the United Kingdom music scene as Chyna, also does modeling jobs. His first job in the Philippines was as Jaya's cheating boyfriend in her music video.

How did you become a VJ for MYX?

I went to the auditions at MYX and [illegible] to the last 10 and they gave me the job. It was kind of nerve-wracking but um... done my stuff! I made them laugh so they gave me the job.

Is being a VJ harder than being a model?

Modeling is nice but for ramp shows there's a lot of waiting, rehearsals, which is kind of a bore, and there's little money. Being a VJ you are a celebrity, you know everybody sees you and you get recognized. But I like having photo shoots because they're fun and I get to build a nice portfolio.

What type of music are you into? Dance? Trance?

I'm not really into that because that's old. In my opinion you have to be on drugs to... (Mocks someone who's enjoying the music) That's too fast, you know. Whereas in house and garage, you could still vibe and dance to it...

Favorite VJ?

In the UK we call them hosts. It would be Chris Evans (who happens to be Billie's 30-plus-year-old husband). He's very quick and spontaneous.

Dream interview?

Goldie (British DJ).

What's the image you project?

I'd like to project the cool, funky, new style kind of the boy-next-door look, and mysterious.

Homecoming queen

Anna Shier is close to perfection. Besides graduating with honors (magna cum laude, University of Minnesota), this self-confessed nerd never attended her senior prom or homecoming dances. Watch out for her on TV and in... med school? Yes, she came here not for modeling jobs but to study, just like her parents.

How do you feel about winning?

Very happy, of course!

Pardon me but seconds before you and Derek were "crowned," you guys were smiling like... dorks?

(Laughs) Oh, really? I had my eyes closed I think... (Laughs)

What was on your mind?

Oh, I just wanted to get it over with. The sooner it was done the happier I'd be. (Laughs) That wasn't a happy smile but a tense smile!

Which was the best/worst part of the competition?

The best and worst part was finals night. It was really stressful during prejudging because I was getting hammered with question after question. But I withstood the test and proved that I could maintain my composure under pressure

What type of music are you into?

Personally I like R&B, hip-hop and jazz. Anything actually except country music.

Dream interview and what's the first question you're going to ask?

Enrique Iglesias. "Can you sing for me?" (Laughs) That's very personal! Never mind. I think I would love to interview Madonna and just ask her how she's changed since the beginning.

Best compliment received?

Any compliment from my parents is the best, like, when they tell me they're proud of me and of what I've done.

Who do you look up to?

My parents again. Actually, I think I'm almost subconsciously patterning my life after their lives. My dad came from Canada and my mother from the Philippines. They left their countries to go to the United States to pursue their education so it's kind of like what I'm doing now. I left the US to pursue my education elsewhere so I could see if I have the strength.

How will you want MTV viewers to see you?

As a genuine person. I hate plastic people and (I don't want to be seen as) someone fake and false.

Ok, name association... MTV?

Music.

MYX?

Can I say music, too? (Laughs)

Britney?

Spears (Charley: Derek!) Yeah! Derek's impersonation. (Laughs)

DJ?

Mumph.

Vacation?

Virgin Islands.

Love life?

None! (Laughs)

NAME: Derek Ramsay. **Age:** 25. **Credits:** MTV VJ, model etc. **On the best part of the competition:** "When they put the hat on my head. (Laughs) If you saw the picture, I looked like a Binibining [Pilipinas] beauty queen. That was probably the best moment of the whole thing, and making friends."

Ultimate Beatlemaniac

Thirtysomething Arlo hosts Untv's "Out of Time," which features videos from artists in your uncle's collection as well as clips of him with his favorite group and barkada kuno—The Beatles.

What type of music are you into?

All types! Especially classical, big band, jazz, blues and, of course, rock 'n' roll!

Most prized record?

Hey, that's like kind of hard to ask because, like, my good buddies are all going to get upset, you know!

Is being on TV easier than radio?

It's kind of, like, more of a hassle, you know. You get to stand on the right spot and wait for the lights and cameras... and they always seem to be able to sneak up on me or catch me off guard. Not like radio, you turn on the mike and *paddabim paddaboom*, you're on!

Dream interview and first question you're going to ask?

Elvis. "Why'd you do it dude? Why'd you go away?"

What are your thoughts on Linkin Park?

It's a great place. I used to go there when I was a kid growing up in the Bay Area... Oh, you mean the group? You could say they're just living off sound that others made popular. But still you got to give them some credit. Schroeder (from Schulz's "Peanuts") once said, "Damn the classical masters! They didn't leave anything to write!" It's kind of like that today. For them to take a Linkin Park sound and make it their own deserves some respect I guess, right? Like, it can't be easy anyway right? I mean, The Beatles, Clapton, Led Zep, Hendrix, the Doors... they wrote it all, you know. It's a wonder anyone can keep writing and come up with anything at all.

How about the Pinoy rock scene?

It's great. It's come a long way from the 'Gapo and the Juan dela Cruz days, to the days of Brave New World concerts... Now there's like a really stable scene where bands have real recording contracts and don't have to perform only in village club houses and school gyms... Of course there was a time, too, when, like, everyone and his or her dog wanted to be in a band... and almost all of them got record deals, too! Good thing that the scene is settling down and maturing.

Have you really met the Beatles?

Oh, wow! Didn't you see my pictures and the video clips? I was there!

Pop act you'd love to hate?

Robbie Williams.

What if I offered you John Lennon's white piano only if you'd do a remake of "Rock DJ"?

(Thinks for a long time) Uhhh... tempting offer. (Laughs)

Name/word association. Yoko?

Ono!

Er... how do you spell that?

O-H N-O! (Laughs)

Okay then, guitarist?

Slowhand, Hendrix, Page.

Freestyle?

Huh? Swimming! (Laughs)

VJ?

Huh?

Concert?

Obviously Woodstock, the mother of all concerts! Hey, but Pearl Jam was great and so was Rage Against the Machine, dude!

Sellout?

That's a matter of definition, you know. Anyway, I'd say there were a lot of '80s sellouts. My opinion only. Think about it.

A new bunch of VJs provides a good reason to wake up happy on a Monday morning

Perfect Derek

If this guy will run for any elections, he'd be a sure winner with his ever-pleasant personality and well-managed campaign (he's practically everywhere). The 25-year-old never gets tired of proclaiming his love for the Philippines and doing the best in anything he does.

How do you feel about winning?

Great! It took about a day or two to sink in. I'm really, really psyched about it, but at the same time, I'm still nervous. I did my first job three or four days ago. It was just really short. It was kind of freaky. It was for "Be Seen." We just covered the concert of Freestyle symphony. It was kind of easy because I was with Anna. I haven't done my solo thing yet, so that's another experience.

What was the whole VJ hunt like?

Nerve-wracking. All the other VJs were cool but then, of course, there's some tension in the air; it kind of got competitive but I just didn't want to screw up on stage. I was really sick, too. I had an asthma attack right before we went onstage and I had to grab someone to ask for an inhaler so I started pumping myself up. Right after the hunt, there was a party and I only stayed for a short while because I was really sick then. I went home and spent the next day and a half in bed.

Worst part of the competition?

The worst part was when rumors started going around that it was rigged for me. I got pretty upset about that [and I thought] if I do win, where am I going to place myself? If I got it, I can't feel good because everyone's going to think, "Ah, because it was rigged for him." If I lost, "Oh, *kawawa naman si* Derek because he thought he was going to win." So I didn't know where to place myself... I just threw it over my shoulder and said, "*Bahala na sila.*"

Who were your bets?

I was right about the girl. I was right about Anna. And among the guys, I really thought it was going to be Jansen.

What can you say about people complaining about not being a VJ because they're not *tisay* or don't have the American twang?

They're just jealous or something that they can't get the job. But I think it's changing. Before in the movie industry, it had to be someone with good looks, didn't matter about your acting—mestizo, mestiza... But now, it's changing. You see all different types of looks now and it's more based on personality so I think looks are a bonus. But for MTV especially, it's your personality and how well you communicate with the audience, how well you project.

What's the best thing about being a VJ?

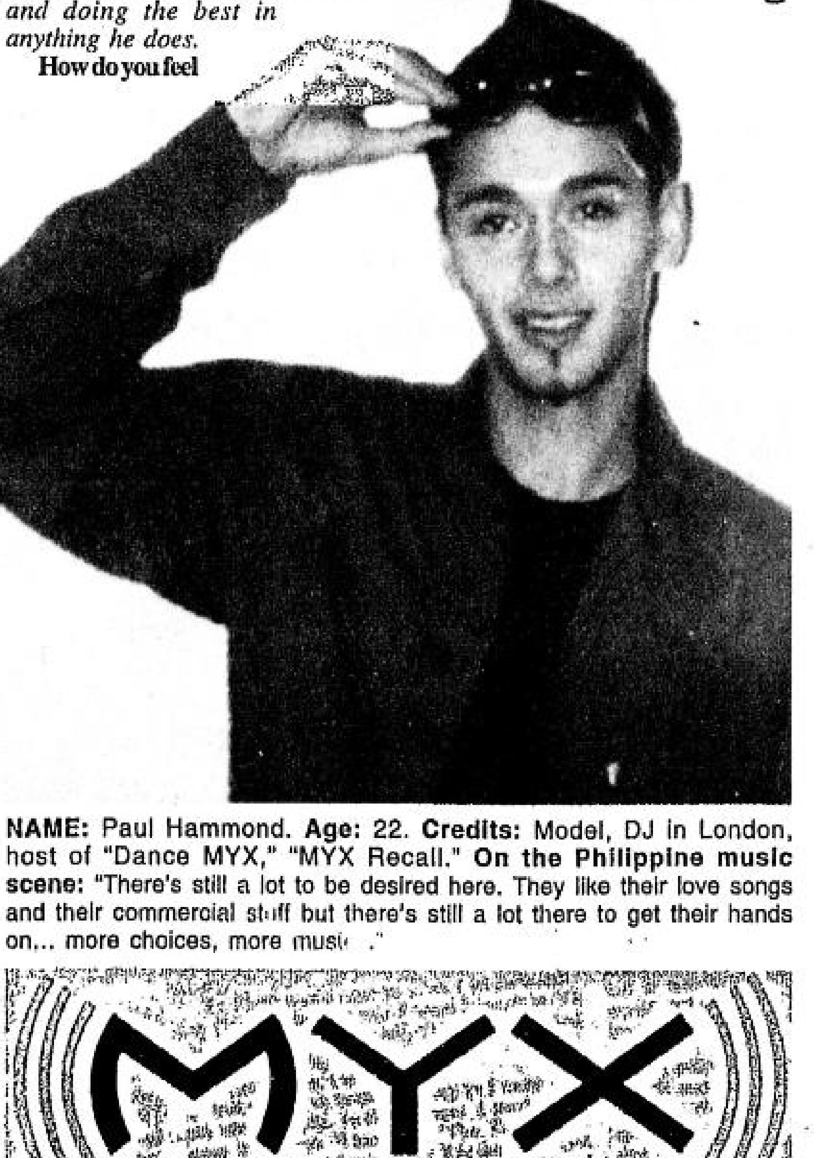
Listening to the music man, I guess... meeting celebrities, people I idolize, hanging out with the crew. It's been a lot of fun and it's easy to work with these people because there's no hierarchy or anything like that. Because you know in local shows like "Eat Bulaga," you have the hosts up there and the cameramen down here and the lights men are down there. I don't like that. Like, the host gets treated much better than the cameraman. But in MTV, everybody just hangs out with one another. Like I noticed after they leave their [work], they all hang out together, they all go out to clubs together and I like that, I enjoy that.

Your dream show for MTV?

The traveling thing. I really want to travel. I want to show them different parts [of the country] that nobody knows. To have a show that takes you around all the islands—we have 7,000 [plus] islands, pick any one of them and just show [people] what each place has to offer. That's what I'd want to do, plus I get to see these places, too! (Laughs)

With reports from Cheryl Tiu
Thanks to Charley Bautista, Mimi Tiu and Atom Henares

E-mail the author at chris_trent_thom@lycos.com



NAME: Paul Hammond. **Age:** 22. **Credits:** Model, DJ in London, host of "Dance MYX," "MYX Recall." **On the Philippine music scene:** "There's still a lot to be desired here. They like their love songs and their commercial stuff but there's still a lot there to get their hands on... more choices, more music."

Rock, 'chopsuey' style

BY MAUI V. REYES

WHEN I registered our music on a music database, I couldn't really put it under any genre," Joey says. "I guess you could say rock, because it's the most convenient term. You can also say alternative rock, post-punk… I don't know." Guitarist Jason simply puts it, "There are only two kinds of music: good and bad. And we're good." Laughing, he adds, "It's *chopsuey* rock."

Playing the circuit since last year, Twisted Halo has become an item of conversation among people even to those who haven't seen them perform live yet. Word of mouth and supportive peers have helped the band produce their first EP, "Twisted Halo," which they bankrolled themselves.

Starting out in 1999, Jason and Vin met through rock band Fatal Posporos, with whom Jason was doing some sessions. Vin at that time had a tape of songs he wanted to release as an album one day, and he wanted to get a group of musicians to breathe life into the songs. The first lineup of musicians, however, didn't work out.

"Kris [of Fatal Posporos] and I were planning to form this band called Trigger Dick. It would be a venue for us to really learn how to play the guitar," Jason explains. "We were talking about it in the car one time and Vin was driving and he said he wanted to join that band." After about a gig or two, the band failed, but Vin was still persistent about setting up a band. Eventually he jammed with Jal, Jason and Joey, who happened to be there while they were jamming, and liked the results.

"Kris always calls me her 'Angel with a Twisted Halo' because she always forgets things, and I constantly remind her about her gigs and stuff like that," Jason says. "And so I thought, 'Hey, Twisted Halo.' "

"Twisted, *kasi minsan mabait siya, minsan hindi*," Joey points out.

It's not only Jason's mind that's twisted. Twisted Halo's music is, as Jason describes it, as twisted as *chopsuey*. It's hard not to come up with such a result when each band member brings a different flavor to the table. Mon-Mon admits to listening to Guns N' Roses, Metallica and Def Leppard. Jal listens to trip-hop, jazz, acid jazz and, most recently, Japanese acid jazz. Jason listens to Sonic Youth and most recently, The Strokes. Vin is partial to Nirvana. And Joey? "I try to bring in more of the ambient, dream stuff in the music. So I listen mostly to mood music, and you can't escape the high school influences like Metallica, Slayer… death metal. Mostly '80s music, actually."

"[Our music] is basically guitar music," Jal says. "A mixture of textures. I treat our music visually. Like, you have contrast of color, shading, it's dark with a little pastel, and you have contrast of textures like edgy ones and the ambient ones, more airy ones, from Joey, and you got the soothing vocals, and some grunge. And Mon Mon's delivery of metal—it's so hard to classify it. Personally I'm having a hard time dealing with genres."

> 'There are two kinds of music: good and bad. And we're good'

Welcome to the twisted world of Twisted Halo.

People say your music's basically indie music.

Vin: We're getting flak because of it. We're independent, now why? Because nobody tells us where to do it, when to do it, how to do it. The problem is, *may mga taong nagsasabi na, 'Pare, hindi naman kayo* indie *kasi hindi* indie *ang tunog ninyo eh.' Sa akin kasi, ibig sabihin,* if you have a reggae band, and they produce their own album and they do their own marketing and distribution, *hindi na sila* indie *kasi* they're reggae, *'di ba? 'Yung* indie *parang sobrang ginamit na siya na parang isang* genre, *na dapat kung* indie *ka may tunog ka na* specific. *Eh paano naman 'yung mga bandang katulad namin na* we don't fall under their classification of 'what is indie'? *Eh ayaw naman namin mag-*sign up? *Ano'ng gagawin namin? Eh halimbawa, 'yung* Tatlong Itlog, *maglalabas ng album. Maglalabas sila ng* 1,000 copies *ng* album *nila, tapos ibebenta nila. Ano? Hindi sila* indie *dahil* Tatlong Itlog *sila?*

Joey: Let me put it this way. We're too mainstream for indie and we're too indie for mainstream.

Jal: If you treat indie as a genre, problematic *na talaga siya.*

So do you think it's just a revolution?

Jal: For us, it's more of a do-it-yourself production *kaysa sa* indie. I mean, we know people who are actually dissing us because we're proclaiming we're independently producing everything. You can't have an independent genre because you have influences. *May pinanggalingan naman ang lahat eh. Eh di bakit may* indie punk and stuff? So we're having a hard time categorizing indie as a genre.

Vin: I think that's why we're having a hard time classifying our music. One good thing about the band is that we're not caught up with defining genres and which genres are cooler than whatever. It's all music.

Who writes the songs?

Vin: We all do.

Mon Mon: *Meron ako, mga* five, *hindi sinama sa* album *kasi* drums *lang eh.*

Jason: *'Yung* EP, I think around four of them started out as Vin's songs. *Siyempre,* once you present the song, *kanya-kanyang* revision *na 'yan. Sa*

ROCK/ p.D4

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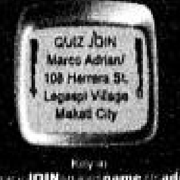

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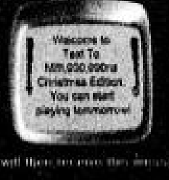

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Key in **QUIZ** *space* **<QUESTION NUMBER>** *space* **<ANSWER>**
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Participants should finish answering the three (3) multiple choice questions by 12 midnight of the same day the questions were received in order to earn one raffle entry. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until she completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of one week.

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Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before starting each game/day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is P2.50.*

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LIFESTYLE

NU ROCK AWARDS

And the nominees are . . .

11 bands, one outer-space party

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Mike Alquinto

FRANCIS Reyes of The Dawn is wincing. There are balloons streaming across the ceiling, children's songs blaring from a component system at the corner of the room, and party hats on every table.

"You do realize this whole thing is kind of weird, right?" he whispers into my ear.

It's simple. The first venue that popped into my head was the Planetarium. It was probably dilapidated by

AND/p.E6

PHOTO: MAUI REYES

RIVERMAYA

Nominated for Song of the Year. ("Ambulansya")

What made you write "Ambulansya"?

Rico: We were at an out-of-town gig, and there was this escort right in front of us, and it was just going "*wawa*" for almost an hour. So to keep my sanity, I decided to jam with the siren. And I just came up with the song.

Do you look forward to the Rock Awards every year?

Rico: There was one time I wasn't looking forward to it. But now I'm really excited… for the party, actually, not the awards.

You think you're going to win this year?

Rico: I don't know, really. But the success of "Ambulansya" on the chart of NU is more than enough. I mean, we produced the album with no record label and we still got airplay for the songs, and it was on the countdown for, like, the longest time, that it started freaking me out.

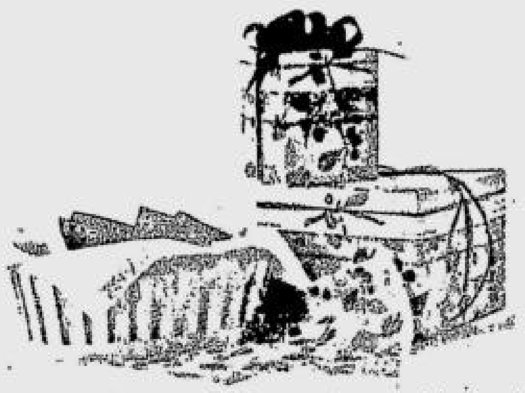
Why?

Rico: Because it became such a monster. I just wanted people to hear it, I didn't expect people to love it that much, and they still love it. And I have to beg people to stop voting for it, because we have new songs. But I think the inspiring thing about it is that it has encouraged a lot of upcoming bands with no labels to record and release their own [music]. They approach us even in the provinces and tell us that they were inspired by the song.

Do you ever see yourself releasing another album like "Free" in the future?

Rico: Yeah, in terms of doing something crazy or something not traditional. And that's what Rivermaya has always been about. Like this new album, we didn't even have a launch. I don't believe in album launches anymore for established bands. I think it's a waste of money.

Do you know what I wish?
Beautiful gift ideas for everyone on your list from Origins



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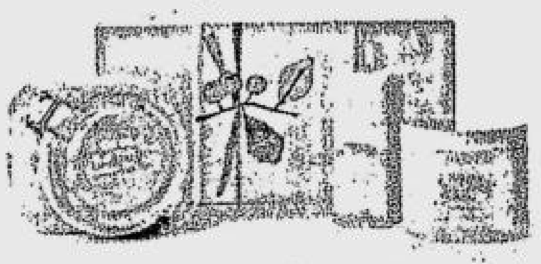

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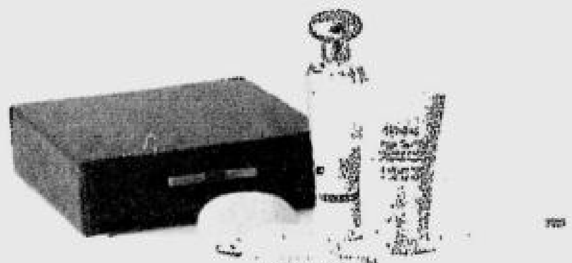

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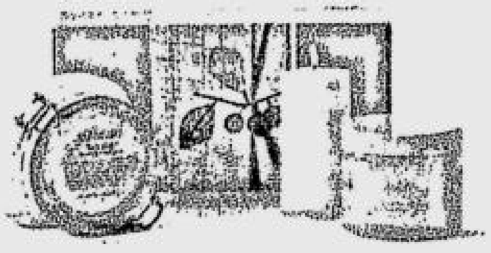

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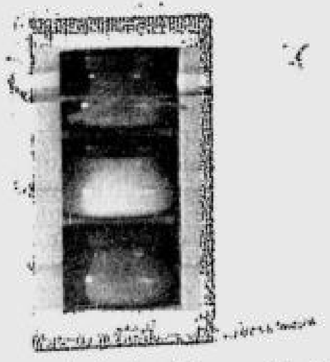

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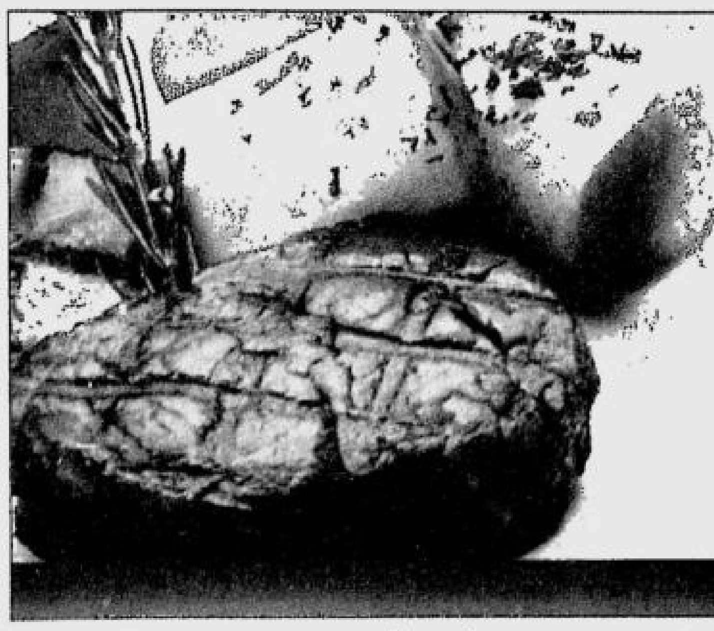

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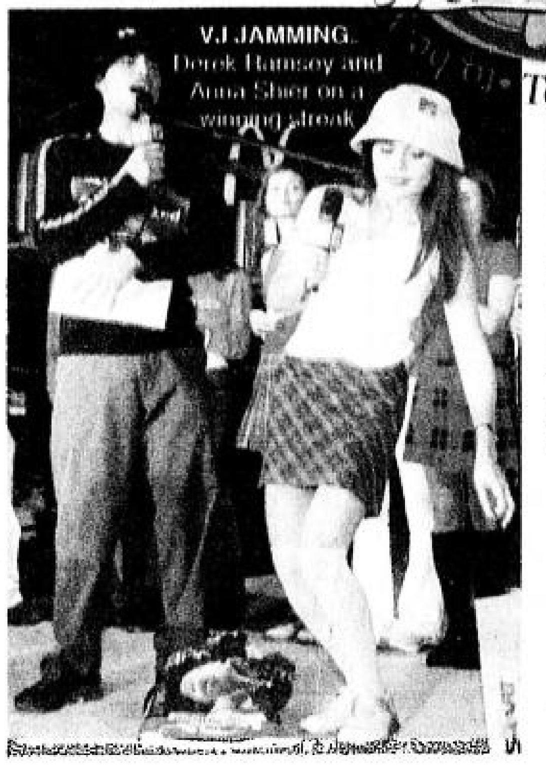
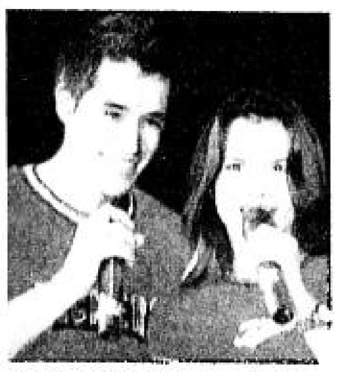

V.J JAMMING. Derek Ramsey and Anna Shier on a winning streak

TIGHT FIT. MTV boss Francis Lumen puts the winning hat on Derek Ramsey.

IF THE HAT FITS. And this year's Miss MTV 2001 is... Anna Shier!


POP CYCLE. Mickey Randall goes 98° while Monique del Mar does a Britney.

"MY love, there's only you in my life..." Charms Espina and Davao's Carlos Ramos learn the intricacies of videoke.

SHE'S GOT THE LOOK. Kit Baraquias pulsates onstage.

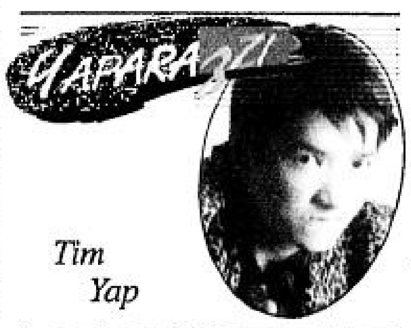
Of model hopefuls and VJ wannabes

FASHIONISTAS. Inno Sotto, Tanya Paulsen (third from left), Smart's Boy Martirez, Jacob Fernandez, Joji Dingcong and friend

GOOD TIMES, GREAT TASTE... with Vernon Go

LATE FOR THE HUNT. Other VJ hopefuls, PULP photogs Erik Liongoren and Gary

SMART SET. 'Boy Martirez with Erie Matti and 2tay Maristela



Tim Yap

MTV has been trailblazing the youth scene of late, what with one hip happening after another. From the much-ogled Fashionista Best Model Search to the coveted VJ Hunt held a few weeks back, it just proves that "there can only be one."

First stop was the NBC Tent where model hopefuls paraded in their Jag jeans, Pride Exchange and Tina Danyac swimwear and YDG designer formal wear. After that, the audience, composed of the city's hippest fashion watchers and model supporters, witnessed the juxtaposition of this set of chameleons on the ramp and on the giant video screens that dominated the venue.

Refreshing in a model competition is the absence of drama, none of the "I want to save the world from hunger" and talent portion hysterics. Here they were judged mainly on the basis of their looks and projection—at least for the audience and the judges, the job would be easier. Not for the candidates though, who had to hop from the coolest of casuals to the skimpiest swimwear to the snazziest of formals in split-second changes and still look cool—such is the life of a model.

Fitting masters of ceremonies were VJs **KC Montero** and **Sarah Meier**, spunky seductress and latest Swatch girl who once again bedazzled the audience with her oomph and her quiet "I don't care what I'm wearing—I'm beautiful" attitude. This time, she sported a wild Afro and was in a denim gown, with a funky giant zipper that stretched from neck down to the cleavages up and down there.

KC wasn't bad himself that night, foregoing his usual hip-hop self for a preppie pal in a red biker's jacket and tan trousers with a gelled-up bed head. Together, they breezed through their spiels in the most relaxed and goofy way, exuding the true model virtues of confidence—their beginnings being the designer's ramp before gracing the MTV screens.

After a quick paced show, expertly handled by **Robbie Carmona**'s Saga, (also the franchise holder of the pageant) Smart special awards were given and the winners were announced. Crowd favorites **2tay Maristela** (last seen doing the opener for **Rajo Laurel**'s gala) and **Erie Matti** (with abs of steel, last seen as a centaur at the Ayala Halloween party at Glorietta) snatched the titles "Best Model Philippines." As of this reading, both are in Turkey to compete for the "Best Model of the World" sashes. Let's hope for the best for this new set of fashion movers.

Cool dudes and hot babes

From model contest I hopped to Friday's that Saturday night in El Pueblo for the pre-judging of the "MTV VJ Hunt 2001." Ten VJ wannabes were interviewed and asked to crack jokes, introduce videos and talk about themselves and their passions to a discerning panel of judges composed of style icons, dames in media, selected sponsors and MTV tip tops.

One of them failed to crack a joke, another promoted her upcoming movie while another sang his way to compensate for his Tagalog—each of them had their own distinguishing mark that made them either fade or shine. Most of them provided great eye candy, so much that one of the judges, Pulp editor **Vernon Go**, remarked—"You are one hot babe!" to **Monique del Mar**, of the video jock contenders.

A lot of them exuded spunk—**Mary Ann Sansano** played with the camera, Cal Carrie's model **Mich Astudillo** used price tags as accessories and pediatrician-to be **Anna Shier** taught us the intricacies of a breast surgery in VJ speak. Music talk ranged from Madonna, boy bands to the Rolling Stones. Impressive were 89.9 DJ **Jansen Cunanan**'s take on Hotel California and **Louie Tortuya**'s opinions on the Napster craze—it gave them plus points in the music knowledge category.

"Tell us something we don't know about you," I asked **Derek Ramsey**, Cosmo centerfold and Oxygen image model during the pre-judging. "Most of you know I'm a foreigner—the truth is, I am very Pinoy—proud to be. While others look at other shores and want to transfer there, I am from there and found a home here—I love it here and I intend to live and die here."

Facing the music

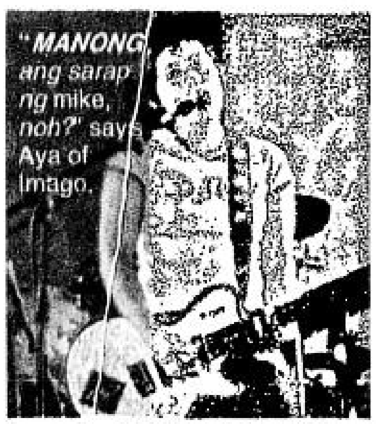
We then moved to The Mega Strip, where the final judging was to take place. Taking a tip from the MTV officials, we walked in with our flamboyant frou frou from El Pueblo to the Megamall area, looking like a confused Santacruzan procession, with **Tina Maristela-Ocampo** and **Rissa Samson** in their Miyakes and me in my uh, fur.

There, the would-be video jocks had to face the music, I mean audience, as they were grouped in pairs to see how they blended and communicated with each other. This further made the marks either higher or lower, with the judges' option of adding or subtracting one up to five points from each candidate. One look and you could see who connected and who didn't.

As we all know by now, Anna Shier and Derek Ramsey brought home the bacon when MTV prexy **Francis Lumen** put the MTV VJ hat on them, with KC, Sarah and **Belinda** handing them the MTV mike to welcome them into the VJ fraternity. An R&B after party at hip spot Wherelse followed, where Anna and Derek raised the roofs with their first hosting stint as MTV veejays.

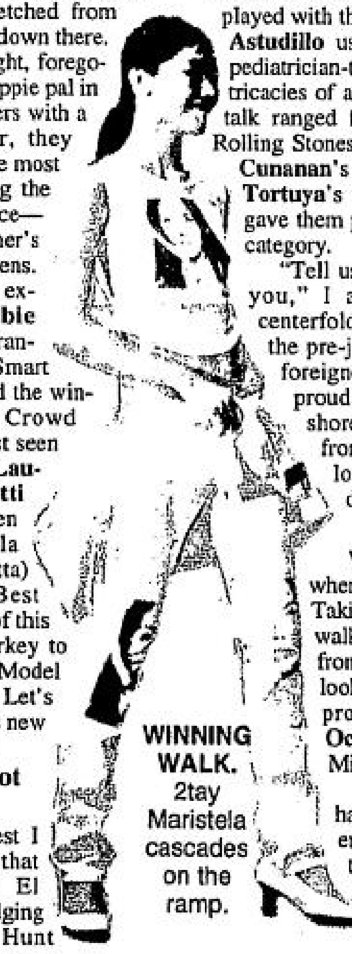
All throughout the evening, both exuded cool confidence, being totally secure with each other as they took turns in giving each other the spotlight before, during and after the judging, doing boy band impersonations and answering questions with utmost sincerity.

I think that's what made them win. Passion for what they do and who they are—representatives of this generation who intend to make things better—not just models but role models. We can't save the world, but if by being the best we can be we make it a better place to live in, then that makes us "best models"—no drama intended.


"MANONG, ang sarap ng mike, noh?" says Aya of Imago.

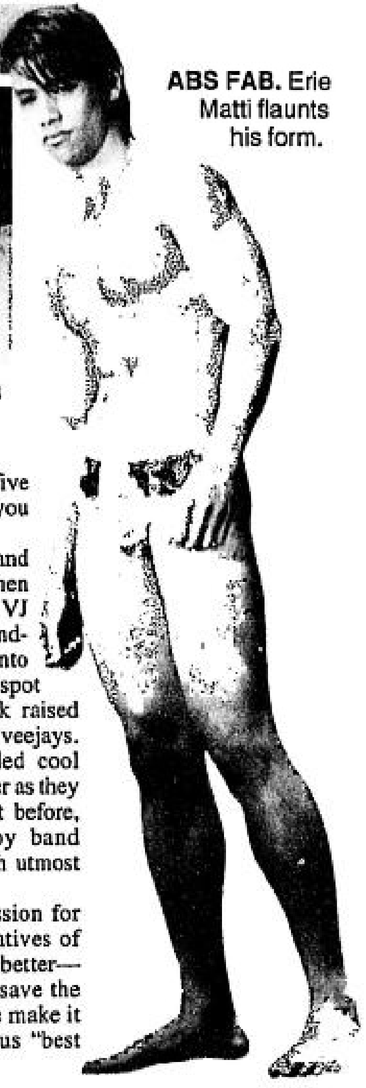
SPUNKY SET. Louie Tortuya and Mary Ann Sansano

"A MODEL must be like a clothes hanger..."


WINNING WALK. 2tay Maristela cascades on the ramp.

SMART'S CHOICE. Divine Lee and Geoff Briz get the texter's votes.

FEARLESS FUN from style icons Myrza Sison and Tina Maristela Ocampo and the author


ABS FAB. Erie Matti flaunts his form.

She's anxious about the real motives of her suitor

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

This boy has been courting me for six months and I want to tell him that I want to be his girlfriend. But every time I am ready to say yes, he doesn't show up. He's the sort of person who enjoys the thrill of the chase. Do you think he's just stringing me along and does not actually want to be with me? How do I tell him I want to be with him without appearing too forward?

SALLY

Don't lose sight of the fact that this guy is the one courting you; you have him almost wrapped around your little finger. Almost, because in crucial matters such as being together in a party you both agreed (I presume) to be in, he tips the scales by causing you needless anxiety. I recommend that you deal with the problem by giving him a taste of his own medicine and standing him up every once in a while. It's a very bitchy and immature course of action, I admit, and it's not easy to do to someone you really like but there is definitely no excuse for fooling someone into thinking that you like him and you want to be with him, when you're not sure yourself if that's what you want. Worse if you know exactly what you're doing. However, we don't really know the motives of the guy that you've been seeing. Maybe the excuses he gave you for not showing up at dates or parties were valid. It would be best to nip the matter in the bud by telling him what you feel and the things he does that bug the hell out of you. Don't worry about your presumption that he enjoys the thrill of chasing you but will never get around to committing himself to you; let him explicitly show or say that, if he is like that at all. Forget convention and your "female dignity" (which I think is hypocrisy given a grander label) and be straightforward with him. Believe me, nothing is worse than having to second-guess everything and driving yourself nuts with suspicions.

SEP

Sep hit it right-on but only after she had the daring notion (collective in female insanity) that you have this reluctant male "wrapped around your little finger." The prospect of courtship is far from the idea that names have been written on quick drying cement or carved on your favorite tree. Courtship is based on selecting the best companion or mate to breed the next generation of a species. In the animal kingdom, in which I hold court, courtship sometimes involves many males vying for the attention of one sought-after female, and in the end, it is incumbent upon the female to choose the brightest-plumed, the bloatiest-throated, and the one with the pointiest, horniest antlers. I'm not sure where I stand with regards to "female dignity" or women's lib, but if he's treating you like a girlfriend even before he's popped the question, then dump the lowlife! There are plenty more alpha males out there to incubate your eggs, and that won't come even way after he's picked up a hundred twigs to create your nest...yet another test of character: aesthetics, and then creativity! My point is that, metaphors aside, there are so many instances in which you're allowed to pass judgement on his character, howsoever insignificant; insecurity is everyone's enemy.

Sure, you might feel a little at-a-loss after you've thrown out the couch while the good-for-nothing husband is still on it and clutching the remote, especially for the couch and the remote, but like Sep said, nip it in the bud. He'll grovel and try to make aggressive advances to make up for lost time but that's just pride and panic frothing at the top; he'll make excuses for his poor track record, but you can look through his lame stories to see his intent and what he really wants. Realizing immaturity, unreadiness and a failure to discipline one's self must be acted upon immediately (that goes for you, too, sweetheart), and you'll feel so much better about it when you've found the considerate, faithful, fun-loving and creatively sweet for which you've been craving. It might even be "him" seven years from now, having learned his lesson. Don't expect a miracle though, so put yourself in circulation immediately. Learn just how much power girls really have over foolish boys who think that, *"hopia't choknat lang, eh, sasagutin ka na!"*

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Bands *that we miss*

THESE musical acts had us rushing to get their albums. Memorizing their lyrics. Screaming. Clapping. Singing. Or, at the very least, nodding and tapping. But where are they now?

After Image
Hits: "Next in Line," "Habang May Buhay"
What we miss: Pinoy power ballads at its best

Yano
Hits: "Tsinelas," "Banal Na Aso, Santong Kabayo"
What we miss: Our parents telling us to stop singing "that song" (hihihihi)

Rizal Underground
Hits: "Sabado Nights," "Bilanggo"
What we miss: Not the commercial, that's for sure

Backdraft
Hits: "SMB (Sad Mad Ballad)," "Asong Ulol," "Sinungaling" and their version of "Himig Natin"
What we miss: Benedict's powerful vocals

Orient Pearl
Hits: "Pagsubok"
What we miss: High school bands playing this song—and messing it up big time

Introvoys
Hits: "Line to Heaven"
What we miss: The pre-Geneva era

Alamid
Hits: "Your Love"
What we miss: The tingly feeling you get when you hear this song

I Axe
Hits: "Ako'y Sa 'Yo, Ika'y Sa 'Kin"
What we miss: Having your guitar-savvy crush singing this hit to you

Prettier Than Pink
Hits: "Cool Ka Lang"
What we miss: We don't.

Tropical Depression
Hits: "Bilog Na Naman ang Buwan"
What we miss: Street-dancing like there's no tomorrow (preferably while intoxicated)

Sugar Hiccup
Hits: "5 years"
What we miss: Melody's haunting shrieks of love and agony

Weed
Hits: "Long Hair"
What we miss: The cute Claretians

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Chris De Lima, Champion Archer
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Miggy Yam, Outstanding Soccer Player
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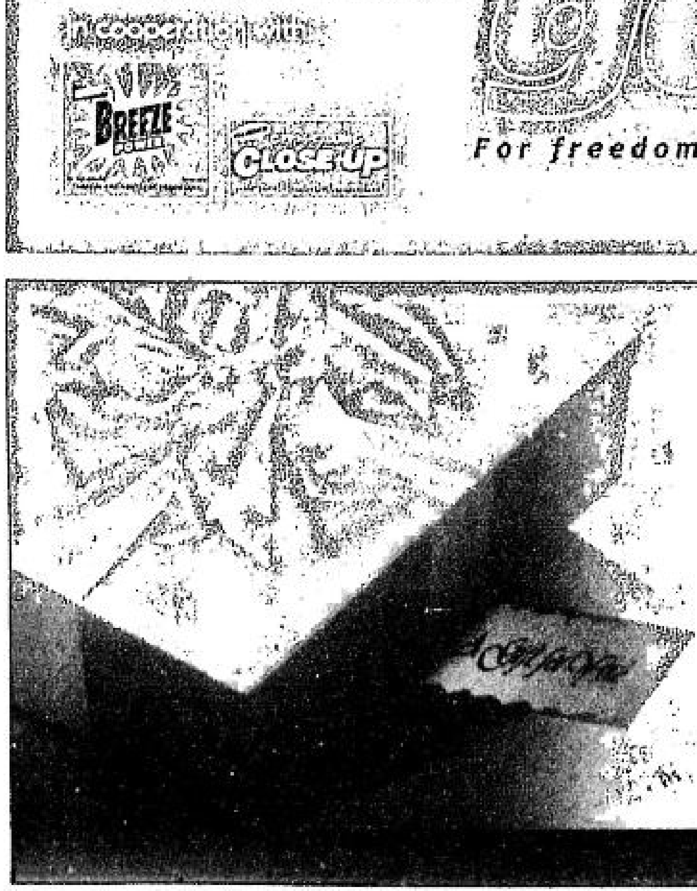

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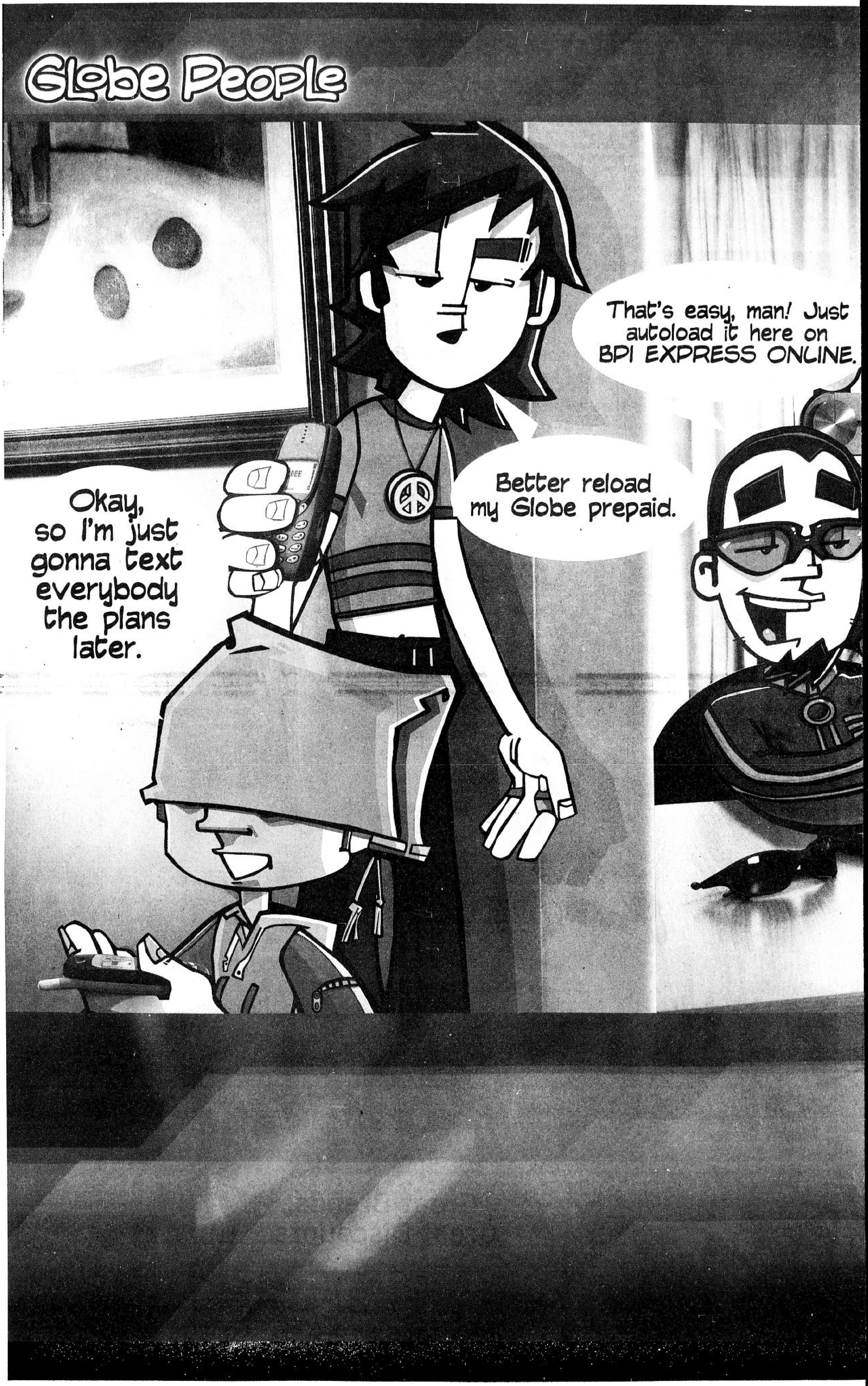
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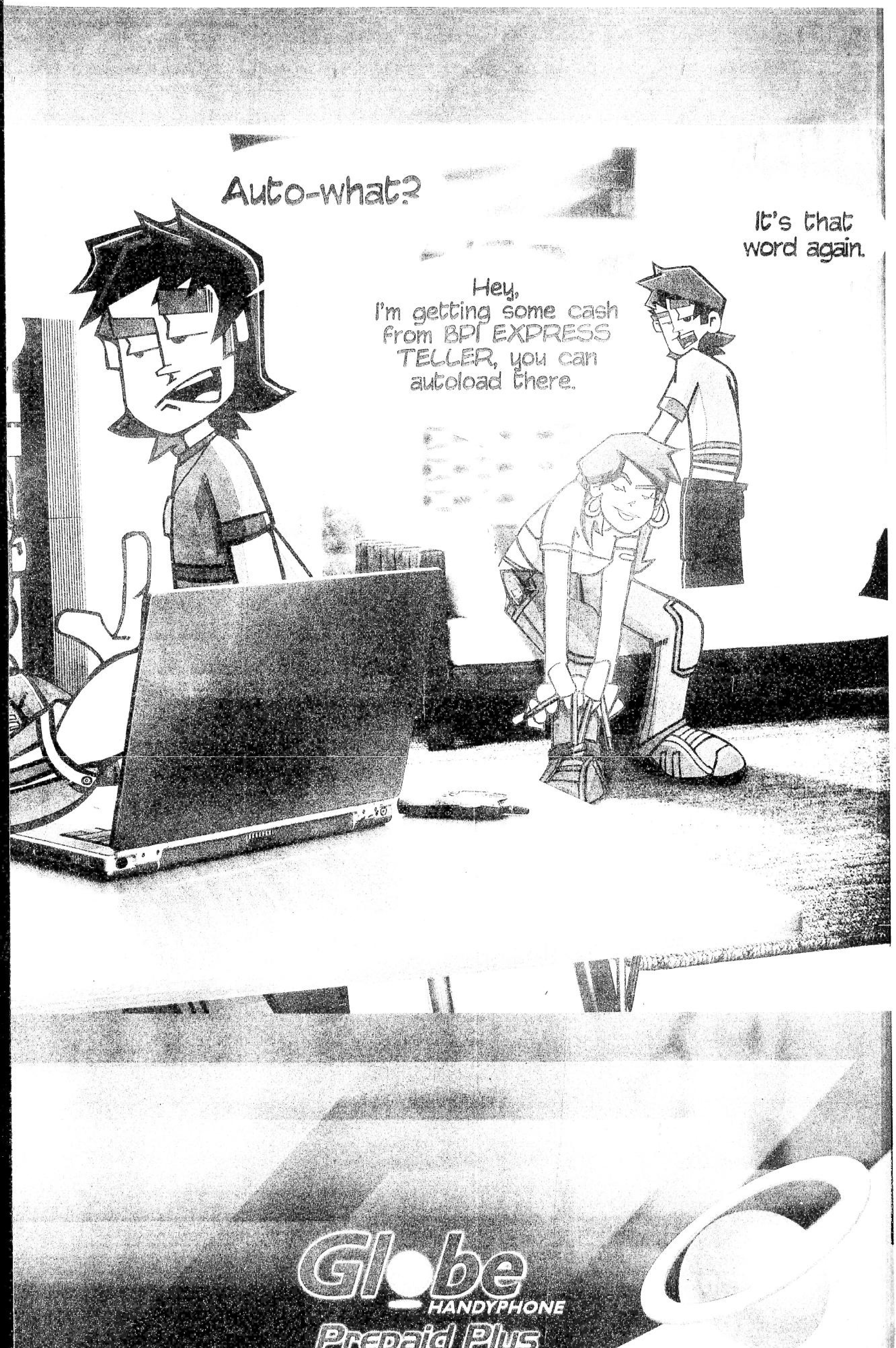
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IMAGO

Nominated for Best New Artist, Album of the Year ("Probably Not But Most Definitely"), Vocalist of the Year, and Drummer of the Year

Which category do you think you'll win this year?

Aia: *Wala.* Honestly, *wala*!

If NU could come up with any new category, which would you win?

Tim: Worst Dressed.

Zach: Magician of the Year. Magi of the Year! (Everyone groans)

What can we expect from your performance this year?

Zach: It's a secret.

Arvin: I'm goning to strip.

Aia: *Si* Tim, *maghu*-Hula-Hoop.

Tim: *Iba* 'yung arrangements *sa* song; we're going to play the song a little differently.

Zach: Actually *wala kaming ibahin, eh.* The audience is going to expect something different, *tapos hindi pala, kaya* "surprise!"

Aia: So *niloloko lang namin lahat ng tao.*

THE DAWN

Nominated for Band of the Year, Song of the Year ("I Saw You Coming In"), Album of the Year ("Prodigal Son"), Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year

You think you're going to win one this year?

JB: Honestly? No.

Carlos: There are a lot of good nominees.

Francis: Wolfgang or Slapshock would probably win.

If NU came up with a new category, what would it be that you'd win?

Carlos: Resurrection of the Year.

Francis: Surviving Dinosaurs of the Year.

Jett: Reunion of the Year. Why Are We Still Here Award.

You think you'll be losing out to the younger nominees?

Francis: Whatever. I personally don't care. I mean, in the sense that we're making music, that's enough of an award already.

JB: Maybe our answers are like this because of our approach to our music. We really have nothing to prove. We just want to play, we want to have fun. We're not here to say we're No. 1. We love music, we love playing. We don't really expect anything. We're very shocked *nga na* we're nominated this year.

Have you ever won any Rock Award?

JB: The very first.

Jett: Lifetime Achievement. The very first one.

Carlos: A long time ago.

JB: Actually we rigged that thing.

SLAPSHOCK

Nominated for Band of the Year, Album of the Year ("Headtrip"), Best Music Video ("Get Away"), Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year

How many Rock Awards have you won already?

Jamir: Three.

Which category do you think you'll win this year?

Lee: Honestly, *wala.*

Jamir: Listener's Choice, *sana*... again.

If there was a category that NU would come up with that you'd be under, what would it be?

Chi: Best Live Performance.

Jamir: Or Best Costume. *Hindi ba? Parang* "Star of the Night"!

What can we expect from your performance this year?

Lee: Costume *uli*!

Jamir: Wilder. And a bit more confident. *Kasi* last time *medyo hindi kami masyadong* confident, first time *pa lang namin sa* Rock Awards. So now we're a bit more confident.

You think "Headtrip" is better than the first album?

Lean: Yes. *Mas marami kaming* input *dito sa* second album, *galing sa mga pinapakinggan namin.* And *napakita 'yung ibang* emotions *ng* band.

Have you been writing for the third album?

Lee: We're done writing the third album. Recording *na lang*... and a label. (Laughs)

Jamir: We need a new label, and we need to record.

How different will it be from the others?

Jamir: It will be better, more complex, and the stuff that we did wrong on the first and the second we'll try to correct.

Lee: More melodious tunes. *Mas maraming makakanta.*

Jamir: It's also better *kasi* we came up with more songs for this, *kasi* we live in the same house.

Lee: We rented a place so *lahat kami umuuwi sa isang* place *na lang.*

And the nominees are . . .

(From page E1)

now, so I thought, Planet Mars—until it hit me that the place was closed already. So where do you hold a pictorial for an event that's calling for a "Space Odyssey"? Pam slapped it in my face. It was a no-brainer! An outer space-themed party at McDonald's. With balloons, food, hats, the works. And don't forget mascots. Oh, yeah, and did we mention the 2001 NU 107 Rock Awards nominees?

Already on its eight year, NU 107 has kept its finger on the pulse of Pinoy rock, celebrating its very existence annually with the NU 107 Rock Awards. Where else can you hear great music and at the same time pay homage to the year's best artists?

So in honor of Pinoy Music, 2bU! gives props to this year's NU 107 Rock Award nominees!

Hell, yeah, we love rock 'n' roll!

This year's Rock Awards will be held tomorrow at Le Pavillion.

E-mail the author at girl.from.mars@freeall-angels.com

NU 107's Atom Henares with the author

PHOTO: MAUI REYES

WOLFGANG

Nominated for Band of the Year, Album of the Year ("Acoustica"), Album Packaging ("Acoustica"), Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year

You think you're going to win this year?

Wolf: Basti will! Undisputed! He always wins!

Manuel: *Ako isa pa lang!* ***Nabasag mo pa!***

Wolf: *Hindi, ako 'yon.*

Basti: See! You finally admit it!

Wolf: No, *ako at si* Basti! No, actually [we broke] just one.

Basti: We did it together.

Manuel: Actually another one just fell in the studio.

You think that'll bring you bad luck?

Wolf: Well, breaking glass is good luck *daw.*

Manuel: But this one just fell, it didn't shatter.

Basti: *Naubusan ng* glue.

In the individual categories, do you think you'll win this year again?

Wolf: No, it isn't in our minds.

Basti: Oooh, it is, *eh*! (Laughs)

How's the new album doing?

Manuel: The CD just came out this week. We've seen a few people come up during our shows with the tape. There's maybe around four people who bought it (Laughs), that we know of for sure!

Wolf: We're still in the process of promoting it.

You think this is the best album you've done so far?

Wolf: Yes, because first, we did it almost on our own. And much of the writing was very easy; it just came out.

Basti: And it's a great album, man!

2BU! staff with Arlo of Untv and Atom Henares

LOCATION: MCDONALD'S GREENBELT
THANKS TO: NU 107'S ATOM HENARES; THE OWNERS AND STAFF OF MCDONALD'S GREENBELT; THE BANDS AND THEIR MANAGERS

MOONSTAR 88

Nominated for Best New Artist and Best Music Video ("Torete")

What was it like shooting the video?

Acel: It was fun! Because Robert Cabral's concept of the song was *parang* crazy *kami, na nagkukulitan kami, kasi* the song's "Torete."

Herbert: *Kasi talagang makulit naman kami, eh.*

Who are you looking forward to see perform this year?

William: Radioactive Sago. *Gusto ko makita 'yung mga* horns.

Acel: Barbie's Cradle.

You think you'll win an Award this year?

Herbert: *Hindi.* Okay *na nga na na*-nominate *kami.*

Acel: *Parang kahit na hindi kami manalo,* winner *pa rin kasi na*-nominate *kami.*

Did you ever expect to be nominated?

Herbert: No.

But you always go to the Awards, right?

Acel: *Oo, lagi kaming pumupunta, binibigyan kami ng* invitation, *pero nanonood lang kami.*

William: *Nanalo na 'to dati, eh.*

Acel: Best New Artist in 1998, for this other band, Orphan Lily. *Wala sa akin yung* award, *eh. Nandoon sa* manager *namin* before.

RADIOACTIVE SAGO PROJECT

Nominated for: Best New Artist

You think you'll win this year?

Lourd: With our 10 fans? No. (Laughs) There are the girlfriends, friends, fans, family. Okay, make that around 15, probably.

How's your album doing, though?

Lourd: Pretty okay, I guess. There aren't any specific figures, really.

Are you writing for the second already?

Lourd: Yes, we're writing for the second album. When that is, I have no idea. It would be really different from the first one. More experimental.

Who are you looking forward to see perform this year?

Lourd: All the bands, actually. Well, last year *kasi* Slapshock had body makeup, so I want to know what sort of body makeup they'll put on this time.

Who would you want to see win this year?

Lourd: Everyone, basically. These are guys we play with every week, every month, and we can see the effort and creativity they put in the stuff that they do. So anybody who wins here is good.

ITCHYWORMS

Nominated for Best New Artist

You think you'll nab this year's Best New Artist award?

Chino: We want to win, but we don't think we'll win. (Laughs)

Jugs: We don't deserve to win. (Laughs)

How has the album been doing?

Jazz: It's been sitting nicely on record bar stalls. Nicely.

Jugs: Gathering dust.

Chino: It's been selling like shawarma. Shawarma after five years.

Jazz: It's selling like sushi at breakfast time.

Who do you want to see win this year, though?

All: Us! (Laughs)

Chino: Actually any of our label mates would be fine.

Kelvin: *Kasi* OPM, *eh*, so *sana* OPM *ang manalo.*

Chino: *Eh lahat naman ng* nominees OPM, *eh*!

BARBIE'S CRADLE

Nominated for Band of the Year, Album of the Year ("Music from the Buffet Table"), Best Music Video ("Money for Food"), Vocalist of the Year and Bassist of the Year

Which of the categories would you want to win in?

Barbie: I want Rommel to win.

What can we expect from your performance this year?

Barbie: *Basta masaya.* We're playing one song *lang naman, eh.* We're going to make it as fun and as rich as possible.

Who are you looking forward to see perform?

Rommel: Actually *lahat.*

Bassist: *Iba-iba rin yung mga tutugtog. Parang* spiral zone. *May* Imago, *may* Slapshock, so *iba-iba.*

SANDWICH

Nominated for Band of the Year, Song of the Year ("Food for the Soul"), Album of the Year ("Four Track Mind"), Best Music Video ("Food for the Soul," Best Album Packaging, Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year

Which categories would you like to win this year?

Myrene: Album of the Year.

Raimund: Video!

Marc: Album... and Video.

What can we expect from your performance in this year's Awards show?

Marc: A lot of guitars.

Myrene: Mellow set. (Laughs) I don't know yet.

Raimund: Me and Marc aren't playing guitar. We're going to have some friends help us out.

Myrene: It's not really a surprise, because people see our friends jam with us at shows anyway.

What was it like making the video, "Food for the Soul"?

Marc: Fun.

Raimund: It was one of the best we've ever made. In fact it's the best.

Marc: Yeah, we got to go swimming, we got to destroy Chippy bags, we got to walk back and forth again and again.

Myrene: And we got to blow bubbles, and skateboard. And we got to go swimming, that was the best.

Raimund: Swimming, yeah!

How's the album doing?

Raimund: The album's doing okay. We saw some bootlegs already. That means it's good. It's a good sign.

Marc: We're proud of it.

Raimund: We're still promoting it. We're doing a couple of mall shows this month.

BROWNBEAT ALL-STARS

Nominated for Best New Artist

You think you'll win this year?

Scarlet: No.

Wham: We're keeping our fingers crossed.

Have you received any Awards before?

Wham: Ako! Loyalty Award, from kinder to fourth-year high school.

Who are you looking forward to see play?

Scarlet: Bad Burn.

Wham: Guns N' Roses. And Destiny's Child.

John: Bad Burn!

If NU could come up with a new category that you'd win in...

Bong: Best Trumpeteer!

Scarlet: Best Torotot!

Wham: Best Horn Section or Best Trumpet Player.

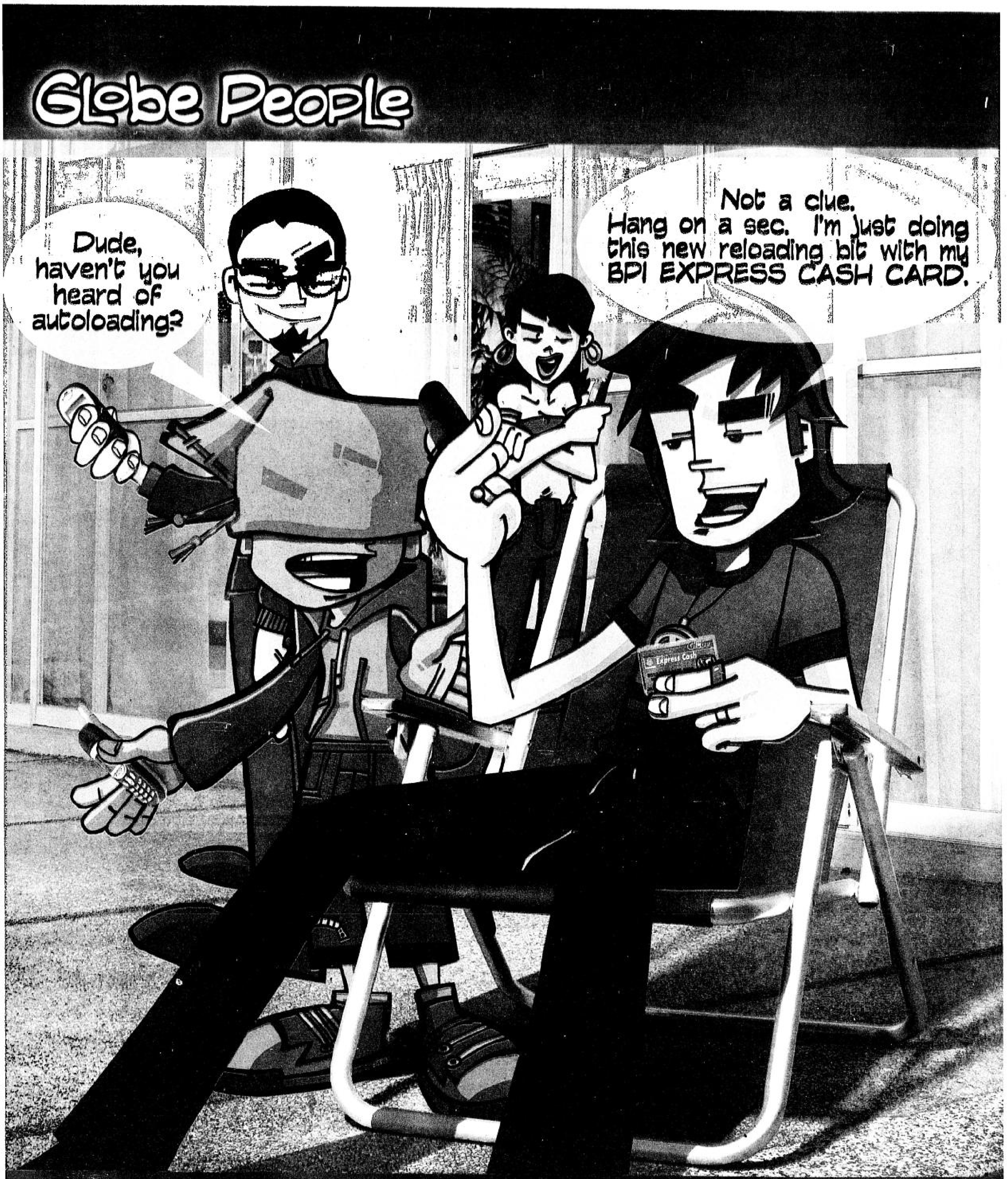
Bong: Best Jacket!

John: Best Blow!

Scarlet: Best Underrated Band! *Hindi* popularity vote!

Why?

Scarlet: *'Yung mga hindi sikat, pero magaling. Sana makasama kami do'n! 'Yung walang balota!*


Globe People
Dude, haven't you heard of autoloading?
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THE 2BU! YEAR-ENDER SURVEY

Vote for the best and worst of year 2001

AMONG LAST year's winners were the Backstreet Boys, Rivermaya, The Corrs, Destiny's Child, Slapshock, Limp Bizkit and Matchbox 20, Santana's "Smooth," Magic 89.9 in the music category. In the film category, "Charlie's Angels," Glorietta 4 Cinemas, Joshua Jackson, Keanu Reeves, Julia Roberts reigned supreme. In the fashion world, Marcus Schenkenberg, Antonio Sabato Jr. and Troy Montero, Giselle Bundchen, Angel Aquino, Brando Umali, Ronald Pasion, Rajo Laurel and Inno Sotto got the thumbs-up. Shoppers voted for their favorite stores—People Are People, Tower Records, Beauty Bar, Anonymous and the *tiangges* in Greenhills. Must-have accessories were "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelets, silver jewelry and beads, beads. When it came to print, "Harry Potter" and his creator J.K. Rowling were the big winners. The comic book cum magazine Culture Crash also had tons of followers clamoring for more. Pulp and Candy got the thumbs-up. Tequila Joe's, Friday's and Kenny Rogers all shared the No. 1 spot on the Best Restaurant list. McDonald's was still considered the Best Fast-food. Sports fanatics voted for Martina Hingis and DLSU's basketball team. Couch potatoes just loved PLDT's "Hello Billy," "Dawson's Creek's" Katie Holmes and Lisa Kudrow. Donita was still everyone's favorite VJ. Technofreaks hailed Pinoyexchange.com as the top website, Counterstrike as Best Game of the Year and Nokia phones as the best gadgets. Who will be the big winners of 2001?

We want you to be the judge again. Tell us who you think deserve to be hailed the Best and Worst of 2000 under the following categories:

Music:
Band
Song
Singer
Radio station
Music video
Album packaging
Film:
Movie
Movie theater
Actor
Actress
Fashion:
Male model
Female model
Fashion designer
Brand
Shop
Trend
Accessory
Fashion icon
Health and Beauty:
Beauty product
Salon
Hairstyle
Fitness regimen
Literature:
Book
Writer
Magazine
Food:
Restaurant
Dish
Fast-food
Sports:
Athlete
UAAP team
Television:
Commercial
Television show
Television actress
Television actor
VJ
Music channel
Technology:
Website
Gadget
Game

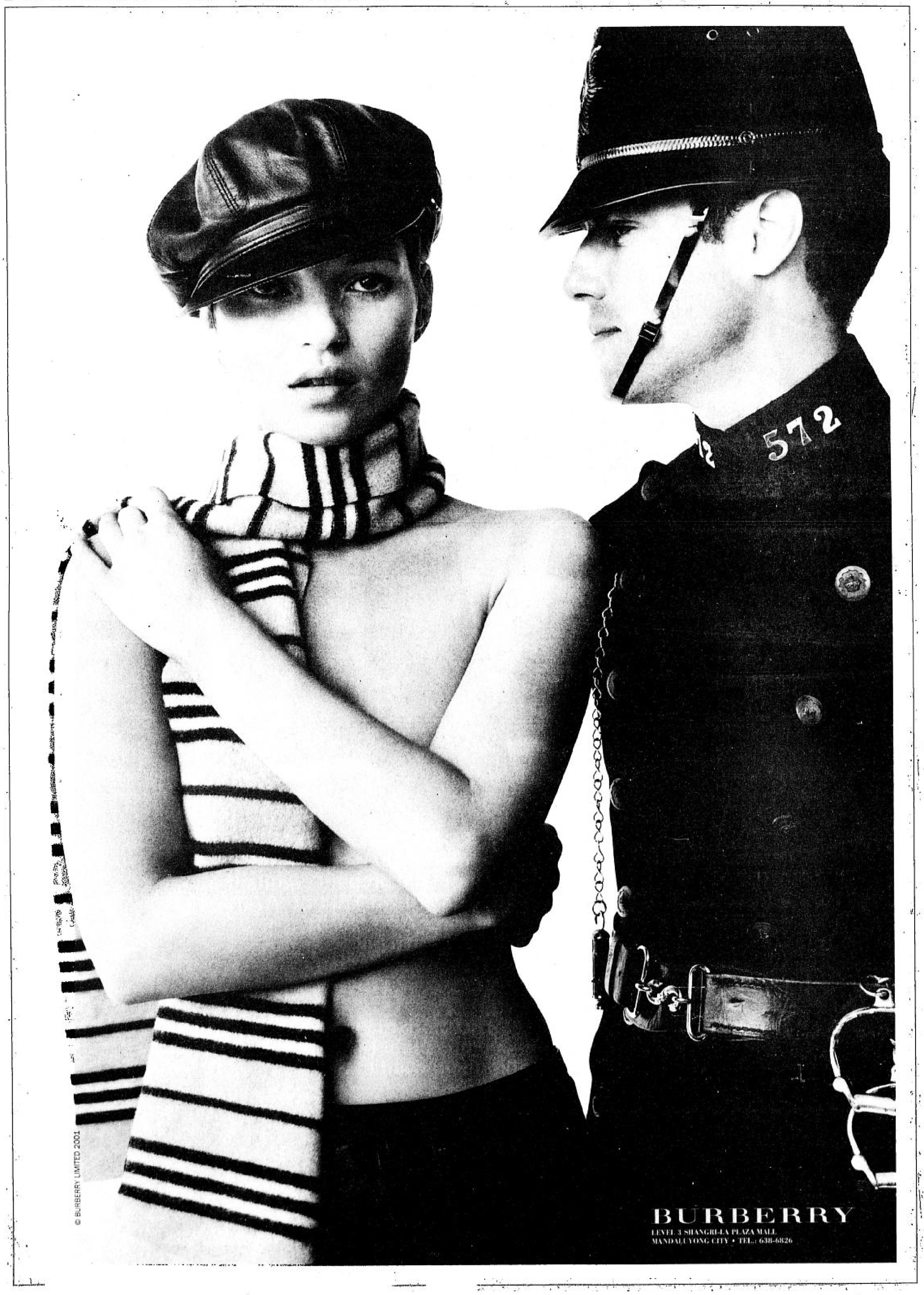
Send your answers to 2bU! Best and Worst of 2001 Poll, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City or e-mail ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph or fax to 897-4793. Please have your answers in by 12 nn on Dec. 22.

Ateneo's Yuletide celebration

THE GUIDON, Ateneo's official college newspaper, will hold "The Guidon Christmas Three" Dec. 10-14. Various activities will be featured.

"As It Happens" is a photo contest and exhibit open to Ateneans and non-Ateneans. Cash prizes and plaques await the winners. A Web launch and homecoming dinner will be held Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at the Rizal Study Foyer. Proceeds of the events will go to the Golden Acres Foundation.

Call 426-6001 local 5074, (0917) 534-4485 or e-mail feedback@theguidon.com.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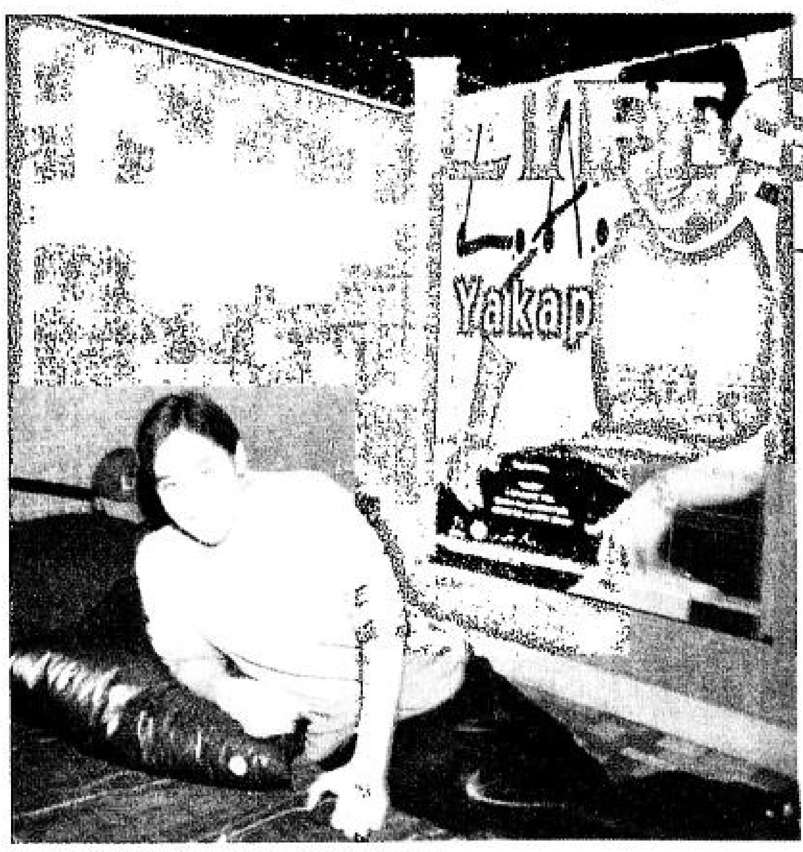

L.A. would rather look into the future

Comeback kid

L.A. Lopez, the former child star, is now 16, has a new album, and wants to be taken seriously

By Ramon De Veyra

AH, the benefits of being early: before L.A. Lopez arrives for our interview to discuss his latest album, "Yakap," and his return to show biz (he has been held up in traffic on the way home from school) I have already culled some information for this article by speaking to his mother, Idonnah Lopez (who also acts as L.A.'s manager), who is there with her husband Rommel Villarico. I have also been able to talk with one of L.A.'s assistants.

The Lopez home is conveniently hidden away in one of the more obscure side streets along West Triangle; it is undergoing renovation. I learn that the property has been with the Lopez family for

COMEBACK/ p.F3

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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Double the fun!
Double the prize!

Shop and join the Robinsons Malls Noche Pabuenas raffle promo!

For selected purchases at all Robinsons Malls, you get a chance to win a Noche Buenas gift basket and a gift pack from Palmolive Naturals Shampoo w/ Conditioner!

See flyers for details.

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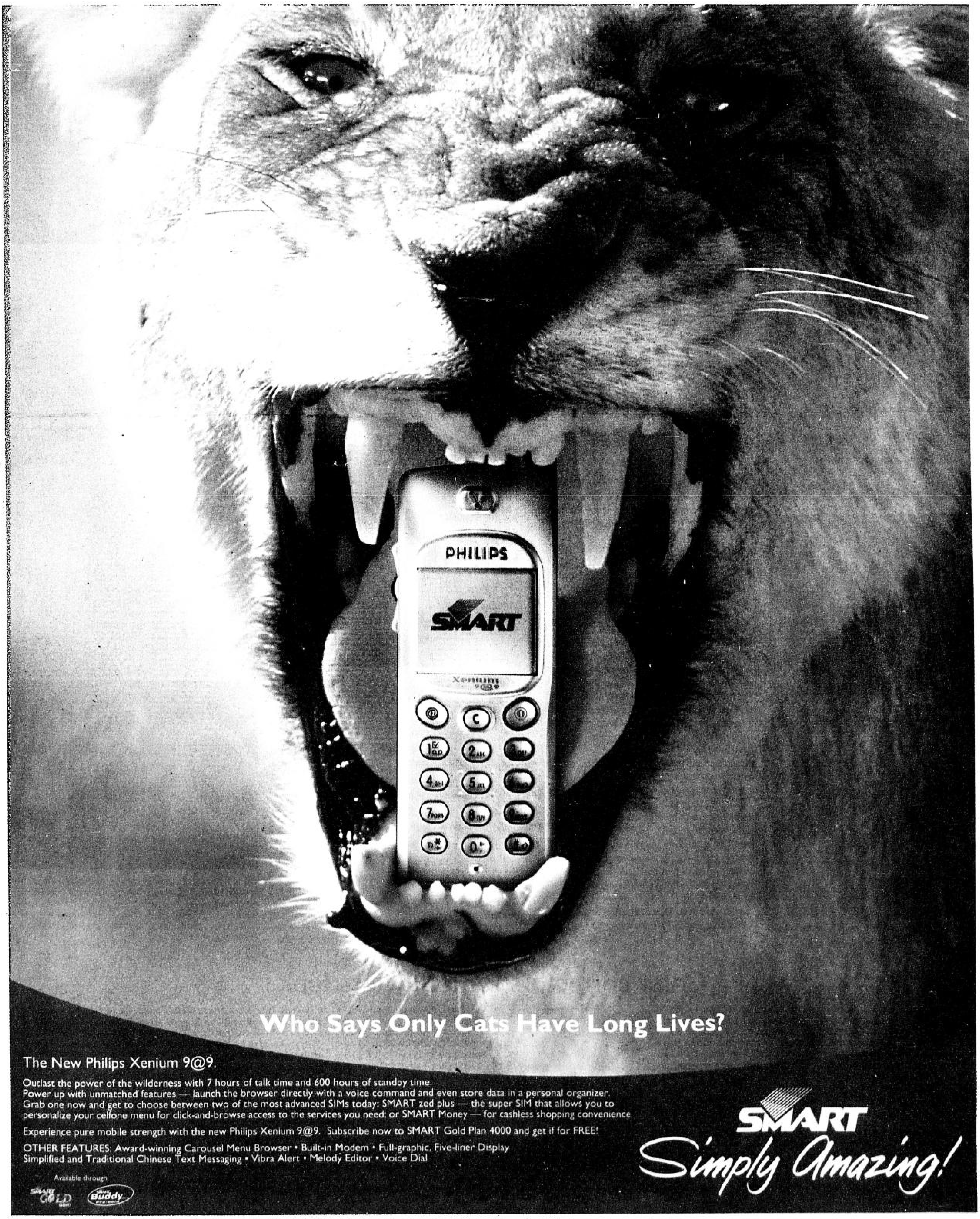

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HONEYPOP is inspired by the blissful sweetness of honey

CANDY SCENTS

The sweetness of honey. The tangy softness of plum. The saccharine dewiness of a smile.

We have craved for them, wanted them and now the wait is finally over. Human launches Human Candy Scents Body Spray, a new line of body sprays that is set to delight the senses. The new line is available in three scents—Honeypop, Sugar Plum and Sweet Stuff.

As the name suggests, Honeypop is inspired by the blissful sweetness of honey. Sugar Plum smells as good as real plums taste.

Sweet Stuff, on the other hand, is as unpredictably playful as it is undeniably refreshing.

Human Candy Scents Body Spray come in aerosol cans that are attractively packaged for your funky personality. Available at P110/100 ml in all Human stores at Alabang Town Center, Cinerama, CSI Dagupan, Festival Mall, Gaisano Mall, Glorietta, Pavilion Mall, Rockwell, Starmall, Times Plaza, Metropolis, all SM Malls and Robinsons Department Stores.

SWEET STUFF is as unpredictably playful as it is undeniably refreshing.

SUGAR PLUM smells just as good as real plums taste.

Christmas stocking fillers

If you've been good, ask Santa to put any of these items on his list for you

BENCH Potion moisturizing body spray Perk is a refreshing scent that stimulates the senses.

WATCHES

Sports and music have been the lingua franca of the youth.

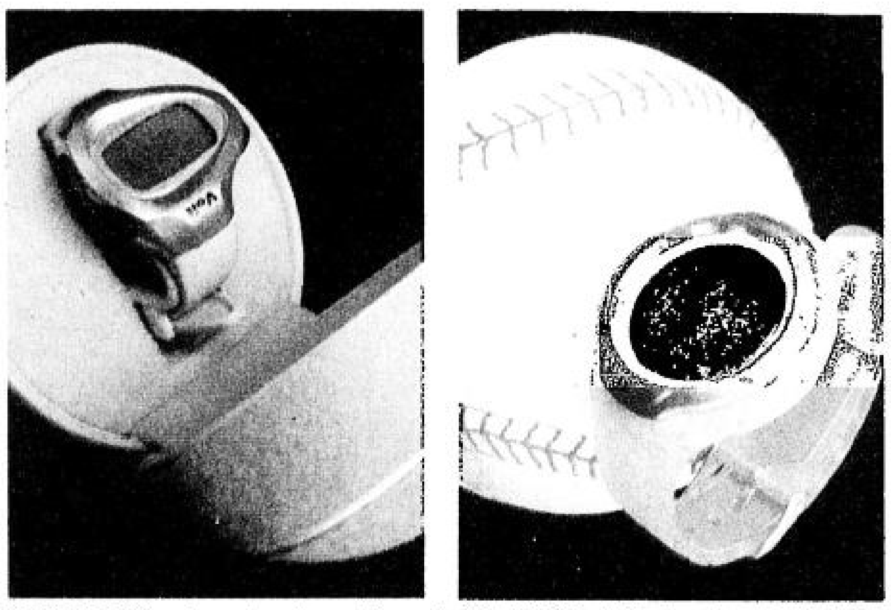
Sports House lets the youth "speak" their language by promoting sports gear as fashionable items in and out of the court.

The store offers many gadgets, equipment and other sporty products and goods. These include inexpensive but durable and trendy LCD watches like Voit stopwatch with back light, date display, digital LCD and battery-operated quartz; or the Voit digital databank with scrolling LCD, back light, alarm, quartz and day indicator. Also available are Voit water-resistant watches with the same features and changeable straps. All Voit watches come in fancy ball-shaped packages. Another "hot" item is the Ultramax underwater stopwatch with similar features, plus an alarm chronograph.

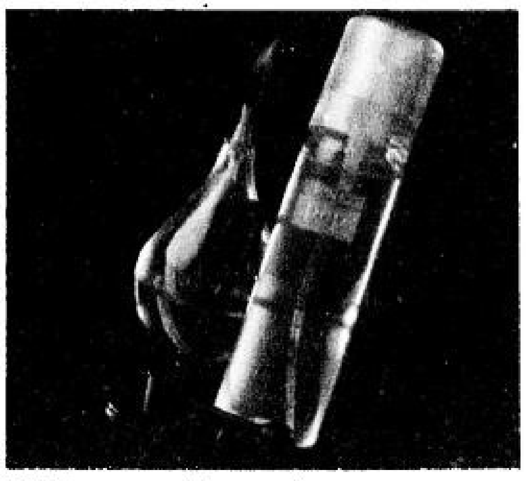
All these watches are imported and come in various designs and colors to suit one's taste or to complement one's clothes. Some people buy a set of watches of different colors to match their outfit every day of the week, or as gifts for various occasions, especially this Christmas.

Sports House now has 20 branches nationwide aside from its first outlet on Gilmore Avenue in New Manila, Quezon City.

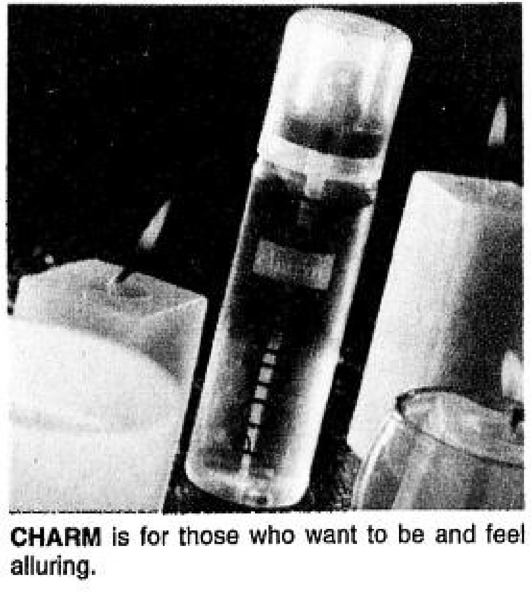
The other branches are in SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Harrison Plaza, SM Fairview, SM South Mall-Alabang, Ali Mall-Cubao, SM Bacoor, Plaza Luisita Mall in Tarlac, Session Road in Baguio, Fiesta World Mall in Lipa City, SM Valeria and SM City in Iloilo, Robinsons Place in Bacolod, SM City Cebu, SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, SM Pampanga, SM Super Center in Sucat, Landmark in Makati. Another branch will open soon at SM City in Davao City.



ULTRAMAX underwater stopwatch, and digital Voit Data Bank with scrolling LCD and changeable strap in its tennis ball case.



PEP is an energizing scent.



CHARM is for those who want to be and feel alluring.

POTIONS

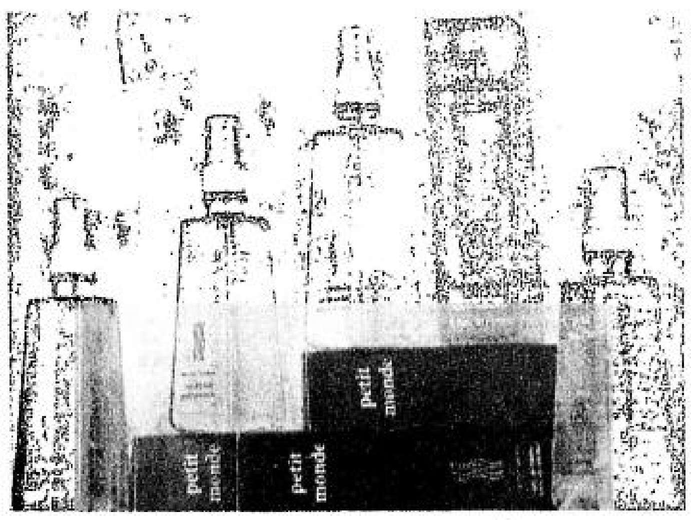
Bench's latest fragrance, Potion, is designed to give you the same confidence and allure potions from the distant past were known for. This new line from Bench offers a fun and colorful range of sprays to help you define and enhance whatever your mood is.

It contains a special extract that delivers a perfect balance of skin conditioners to make the skin smooth and supple to the touch.

Bench Potion consists of two phases that come in different colors and are layered one upon the other. When the product is gently shaken, the layers are temporarily mixed together to form a highly effective moisturizer and create the desired scent to match your particular mood. When not in use, the product resumes its two-color look.

The four fragrances in the new Bench Potion line are Calm (blue), for those who want a soothing scent; Charm (violet), for those who want to be and feel alluring; Pep (orange), for an energizing scent to keep you upbeat the whole day; and Perk (brilliant green), for a refreshing scent that stimulates the senses.

Available in all Bench, Herbench and PCX stores at only P140 for every 100 ml.



SPIRITED SCENTS

Petit Monde unveils its latest eau de toilette collection that captures nature's spirit and bottled them in sweet, citrus-y scents perfect to last the whole day through. The four scents—For My Wishes, For My Pleasures, For My Spirit and For My Passion—dares the young miss to express her feelings and wear a different scent for a different mood. The new eau de toilette collection is available at all Petit.Monde stores in all SM Malls, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita and Festival Supermall.

SWATCH Bijoux designs are light, fun and every color of the rainbow. Enjoy the mix and match of jewelry with the Prismatic collection made from stainless steel and silicon. Available at the Swatch Store Glorietta and Megamall.

BE in tune with the coming trends, styles and colors from Swatch Bijoux. Antagonist Collection is made from stainless steel and nylon. Contemporary jewelry for the modern woman who wants to make a statement about her personality. Available at the Swatch Store Glorietta and Megamall

Color correctors for a flawless look

Kinny Salas

WHAT are those colored creams, concealers and moisturizers for? You know, the ones that come in lavender, mint green, yellow and pink? They are very pretty to look at, but does a girl really need them? I am all for beauty but I also have a budget to work around.
LALA

These are applied either under the foundation or bare skin to adjust one's skin tone. These are called color correctors and each shade has a purpose. Frankly, I only use yellow as I feel it's all I need for a flawless look. It covers purple circles under my eyes, pimple marks and most importantly, evens out my skin tone. Lavender is meant to counteract sallow (too yellow) complexions like olive skin. Apparently, these are very popular with Italians and people who find their skin tone dull due to the after effects of hepatitis or plain lack of exercise. The finish becomes more neutral beige when blended in.

Mint green counteracts red undertones and when blended in makes the offensive ruddy areas white like a clean slate to put one's foundation over.

Used mainly to camouflage broken capillaries, ripe red zits and red pimple marks, pink is meant to add some color to very white skin. That's albino white or Caucasian skin. Yellow-toned skin will look like a plaster mask when one attempts to manipulate skin tone with this. This color favorite is the trickiest one of all.

Yellow (mine and Bobbit Brown's favorite) works best with bruises and under eye circles. Counteracts bluish and purple tones and tones down ruddy complexions. If you want it as an overall foundation shade, it's best for light to medium skin. If you are darker than that, look for a deeper yellow foundation stick.

Don't really know if this is your area of experience but I didn't know whom to ask. I bought a pair of very nice navy blue pants at Rustan's by mistake. I thought they were black. They fit me very well and I'm happy with everything else but the color. What color of shoes should I wear with them? Navy shoes look so sailor and old style. What other color can I wear them with? If I wear black shoes, should I have a black blouse or blazer on top?
TIZZY

You're very lucky that I was looking through an issue of In Style Magazine and saw the answer to our (I grabbed navy pants by mistake, too) problem. Navy is a neutral color and can be paired with other neutrals. The possibilities are endless, the key is just matching your shoes and bag. The hot shoes for the moment with navy pants are on the brown side. These are camel, taupe, matte gold, chocolate and tan. The color of your top is irrelevant e.g. red blouse but camel shoes and bag. Of course, a black top calls for black shoes. If you have to wear socks, match them with the shoes and not the pants. One thing I've tried and is very striking is wearing a full navy ensemble with deep red heels and a matching bag. Wow!

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805.

Comeback kid

(From page F1)

several generations now; there is even an old Ed Castrillo carving of the Last Supper on one wall. After a few minutes, I am allowed into their recording studio where the interview is to take place, and where L.A.'s mother and stepfather (L.A.'s biological father passed away when he was very young) are getting ready to leave.

The studio itself is not what you'd expect from watching MTV or Channel [V]. There is no glass window separating the technician from the recording booth. The walls and ceiling are not covered with soundproof, hole-riddled tiles. In fact, the studio resembles a comfortable living room or recreational room. Sure, there is the recording equipment and the computers and stacks upon stacks of CDs in one corner of the room, but on the other side there is a comfortable couch and a table filled with various chocolates and candies.

Oh, and another thing: the image of L.A. is everywhere. Around the studio are posters of L.A. On the table are his Awit Awards and Katha Award. There's a cardboard standee behind the couch, and "Yakap" car stickers near the mixing board. Amusingly, there is even a box full of "Yakap" CDs on the table, arranged as if it were candy. L.A.'s mother graciously gives me a copy, and tells me about their studio, Pear Sounds, which she claims is the most advanced in the country.

Besides recording albums, Pear Sounds also does scoring and voice dubbing for some ABS-CBN shows like "Okatokat." In fact, that's where the couple is going now: to pick up some episodes from ABS-CBN.

THE OLD L.A.

Finally, after several minutes, L.A. arrives. Now 16 years old and a junior at Sunny Hill High School, L.A. dropped out of the show-biz radar for seven years to return to normal life. But he has now resurfaced with a new album under Star Records.

Dressed in an avocado-green, long-sleeved, tight-fit Diesel shirt and what appeared to be black leather pants and black leather shoes, I am reminded of William Shatner's Captain Kirk from the original "Star Trek" series. All that's missing is the Federation insignia that should be over his left breast. Sporting braces on his lower set of teeth, he warmly introduces himself and we begin talking.

Pride and joy

We start talking about the studio, which L.A. obviously considers his family's pride and joy. He mentions that all his earnings from his time as a child star went into the development of the studio, which cost millions. The family enterprise is where the likes of Ara Mina, Jessa Zaragosa, Randy Santiago and Jolina Magdangal (who sings a duet with L.A. on "Yakap") go to record or mix their albums; it is one of the first all-digital recording studios in the country. It was modeled after the home recording studios of Madonna, Michael Jackson and Celine Dion.

Of course, L.A. Lopez's "Yakap" was recorded here, as well as mixed, mastered and arranged. His previous three solo albums—"Bulinggit Rap," "Ang Batang Mabait" and "Shine" (under Alpha Records)— didn't have the benefit of such technology back then.

And Pear Sounds is truly a family enterprise: L.A.'s mother Idonnah is the producer and vocal supervisor of the album, besides being the composer of some of the tracks, and stepfather Rommel is the musical arranger and sound engineer. I also discover that the atmosphere of the studio is deliberate:

"*Ginawan namin siya ng* environment *na parang mas maayos, mas* cozy," L.A says, in order to avoid cold formality and "stiffness" prevalent in other recording studios, and also to help the artists recording to feel more comfortable and relaxed.

What has he been doing in the past seven years? From speaking with his PA earlier, I have found out that fairly recently he has been touring provinces while endorsing such politicians as Mel Mathay during elections. I also learned he has been an acting facilitator at the summer workshops that ABS-CBN holds.

But what else? The answer may surprise you: "*Ayan, nakikipagrambulan na ako sa mga kaklase ko*, basketball, hang-out, *natuto rin akong maglinis ng kotse, magluto, maglaba.*"

But now he's back with "Yakap," a hearty collection of love songs that belies his age and more mature sensibilities (at least since last the public knew him). Filled with ballads like "Forever Loving You," "I Do Love You" and "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko," it's not diffielult to guess the theme of the album, though he clarifies that it's "not only love for a girl or for a personal relationship, but love for everybody, from the love *na mabibigay mo sa kapatid mo*, love *na mabibigay mo sa* Mom *mo*, Dad *mo*, *tapos sa mga* friends *mo. Tapos* the love that you can give to all your fans."

While discussing his musical influences, it's no surprise that the name of Michael Jackson pops up, as well as those of Martin Nievera ("Kuya Martin," as L.A. affectionately calls him), South Border, Eddie Peregrina (whose "I Do Love You" L.A. sings on the album) and various boy bands of the current pop craze. Indeed, if anything, the spirit of Michael Jackson pervades the album with its sad ruminations on love (or the lack thereof) and the vocal similarities between L.A. and his idol.

Surprises

But L.A. is not without his share of surprises when it comes to his musical influences. "*Alam mo 'yung* 'In the End' ng Linkin Park? I sing that sometimes *sa mga* mall tour ko with my cousin and friend, who's a rapper." The image of L.A. with a rapper is startling enough, but L.A. with a rapper while singing Linkin Park's "In the End"? It's surreal.

But then, that's what L.A. has been moving against—the public's lingering perception of him as a child star. He refuses to be pigeonholed by his former persona—a precocious tot wearing a cap sideways or backward, with the garishly bright colors and belt packs displayed on the cover of his album "Ang Batang Mabait."

I ask him if he has encountered any difficulties in the transition of becoming a recording artist, and he replies that he's thankful the problems have been minimal. His old fans still support him, even if what were once teenagers are now mothers and earning a living. He's also relieved that his schoolmates don't treat him differently anymore. Back in grade school, he says, he was teased a lot. "I felt so uneasy because my classmates, they would, like, tease me, 'L.A. Baboy,' 'L.A. Lapis,' 'L.A. Bakla.' " Fortunately, his current classmates at Sunny Hill treat him as a normal, regular 16-year-old.

But it has not been all smooth sailing for L.A. When his album came out, critics were quick to label him a "*gaya-gaya*" (copycat) for allegedly trying to capitalize on the recent successful comeback of one of his "Eh Kasi Bata" cohorts, Aiza Seguerra. He is quick to refute that, however: "*Hindi pa nilalabas 'yung kay* Aiza *noon*, *nag-aayos na kami noon eh.* We were getting ready for it [the album]."

Also, there is the matter of the lawsuit he has filed against GMA 7 and the show "Bubble Gang," which in one episode aired a skit calling L.A. a retardate. "... I'm not fighting only for me, but for all the retardates in the world. *Na pinagtawanan nila, ginawa nilang kalokohan*, and to me, *ginawa naman ding kalokohan 'yung* sanity *ko na tinawag akong* retardate... Well, I'm not."

Rather than dwell on the more unfortunate aspects of his life right now, however, L.A. would rather look to the future. Right now, he has no plans of going back to acting, as he feels it will take away too much needed time from his studies. Besides, his plate's already pretty full as it is, with upcoming promotional mall visits down South.

Beyond that, he plans to continue his studies in the United States, where he plans to attend the Musicians' Institute of Technology and perhaps also pursue a career in directing movies. For now, though, he is content to have returned successfully to his first love, music.

The author thanks the help of Neva Talladen

Roland
MC-505

L.A. in his own studio

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MENU
GUIDE

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 2017, SERIES OF 2001

Ideal gifts for the Christmas season

These gift checks, which are worth only P185, can purchase a half-gallon ice cream in four exclusively designed Hallmark cards and are available for personal or corporate gift requirements this Christmas

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

STILL thinking of what gifts to give to your loved ones and friends this Christmas season?

Or if you are the one in charge of your company's corporate giveaways, you may require only the gifts that will give the company good lasting impressions. Of course, we also want only those presents that are the best and truly memorable.

Swiss Miss, a known and trusted brand in the hot chocolate drink, which has introduced a year ago in the Philippines its own line of ice cream, is offering gift checks that are ideal for personal or corporate giveaways.

Swiss Miss gift checks are worth only P185. These gift checks can purchase a half-gallon ice cream and can be redeemed in over 150 supermarkets nationwide. And to make these gift checks truly unforgettable, they come with four exclusively designed Hallmark cards and are available for personal or corporate gift requirements this Christmas.

And what's more, for every purchase of Swiss Miss gift checks, a portion of its proceeds will be donated to the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, Home and Day Care Programs. Talk about the best way of sharing and giving love this Christmas season. This is in line with Swiss Miss' commitment to be a responsible community partner.

Happy Holidays
Merry Christmas
Swiss Miss

The Swiss Miss gift check offering is also part of Swiss Miss' first year anniversary celebration in the country. Part of its first year anniversary effort include a P10 Double Scoop for customers in selected major supermarkets nationwide. This is its way of thanking its many valued customers who have made Swiss Miss a success in the market.

Swiss Miss comes with a wide variety of both local and international flavors. Its list of chocolate, mocha and vanilla-based ice cream includes Cappuccino, Chocolate with Marshmallows, Suisse Mocha, Cookies 'N Cream, Chocolat Suisse, Rocky Road, Butter Pecan, French Vanilla, Choco Chip with Cookie Dough and Double Dutch plus its delicious fruit flavors in California Sweet Corn, Mango Royale, Fruits 'N Cream and Strawberry Rhapsody. Popular Asian flavors will also be made available to the market soon.

Mostly made from the finest imported ingredients like Swiss cocoa powder, full cream milk, chocolate chips, real nuts and fruit chunks, Swiss Miss is also the only ice cream in the market today that conforms to US Food and Drug standards in ice cream manufacturing process. It is manufactured under the strictest supervision of ConAgra Grocery Products USA and by the only ISO 9002-certified ice cream manufacturing plant in the country today.

And what makes eating Swiss Miss ice cream truly engaging is it is the only ice cream in the market today that is made from 100-percent full cream milk. Full cream milk enhances the ice cream's flavor, preserving its natural taste. Other ice cream brands use fat substitute instead of full cream milk. The use of full cream milk also makes Swiss Miss ice cream smooth, distinctly rich and creamier in taste. Its just right sweetness makes a truly exciting ice cream blend.

Superior quality ice cream, especially designed Hallmark cards, and the thought of giving gifts this Yuletide season to people who have made our life a little better this year make an exciting gift combination.

Interested parties may call 671-3993 or 249-8824. You can also visit the website: http:/www.gcphilippines.com for details. Orders and deliveries to any point in the Philippines are accepted.

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STRAWBERRY RHAPSODY
MANGO ROYALE
CALIFORNIA SWEET CORN

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BUTTER PECAN
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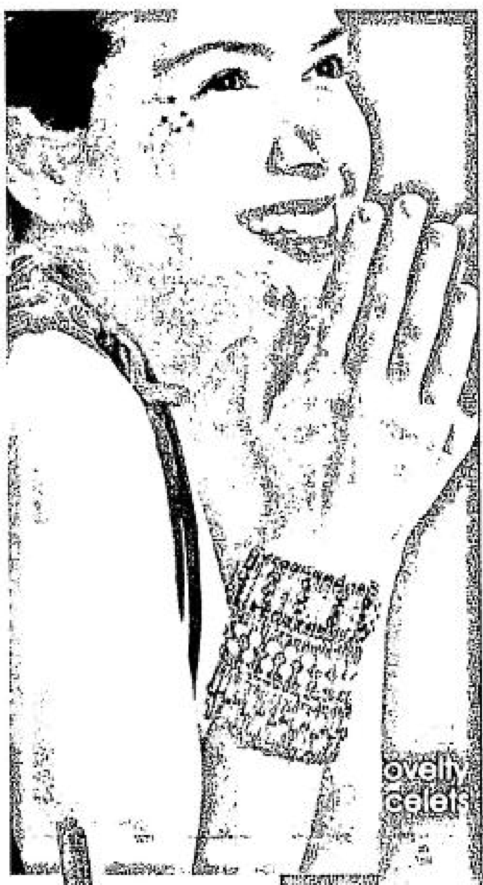
gift solutions

Christmas 2001

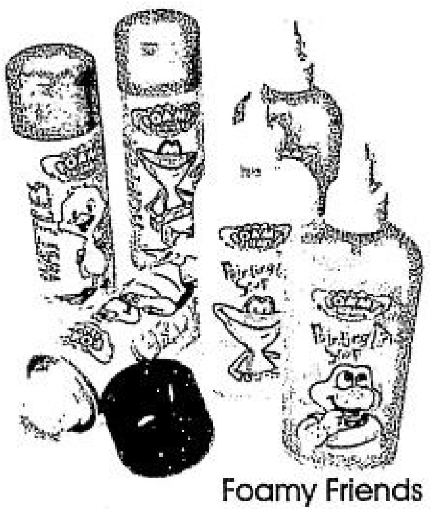
for teens

Holiday gifting solutions from the Wears, Bags, Accessories, Shoes and Stationery Departments, Record Bar and H&B

Stretch Wrap-around Blouse and Capri Pants

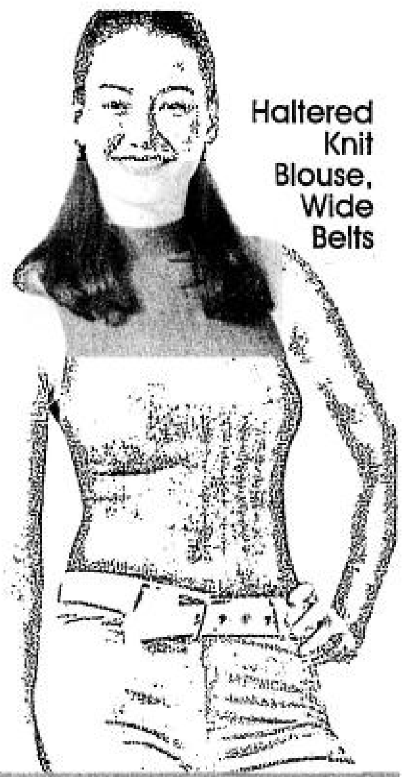


ovelty celets

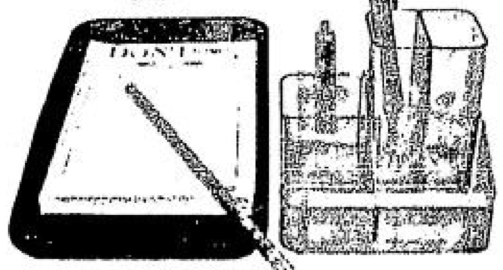


Foamy Friends Body & Bath Soap *H&B*

Lee Round Neck Tees

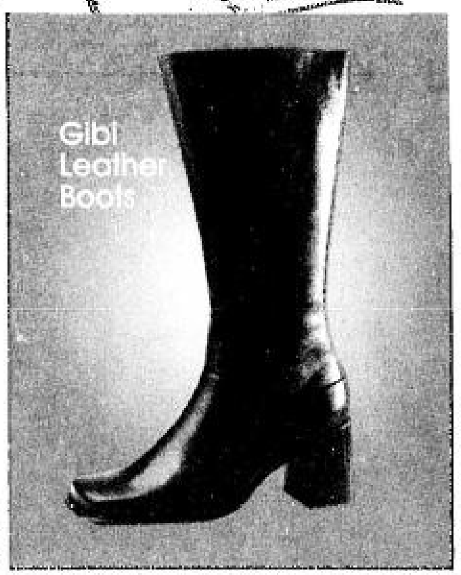


Haltered Knit Blouse, Wide Belts



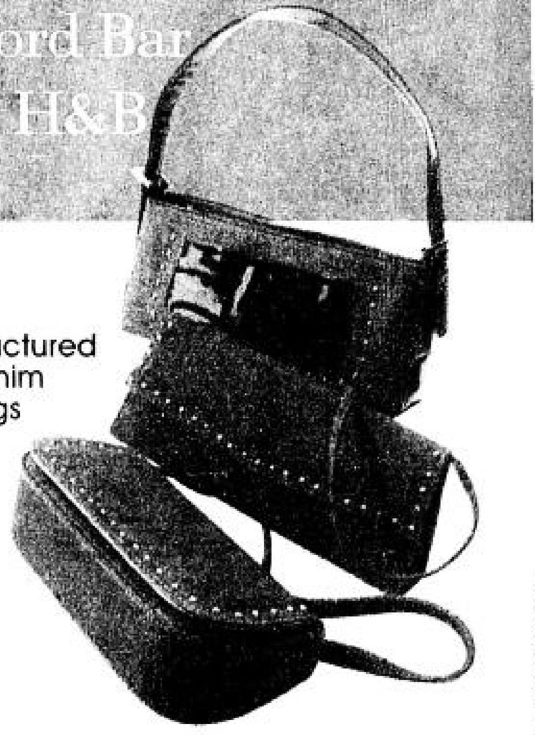
Desktop Paper Tray & Organizer *Stationery*

Colored Ballpens *Stationery*

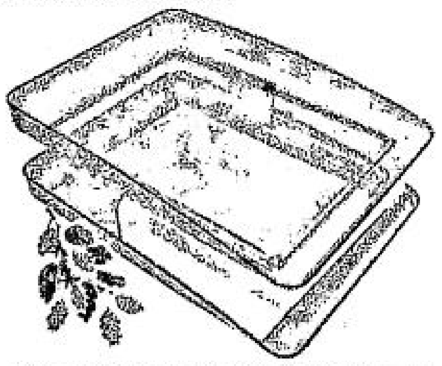


Gibi Leather Boots

Stuf Stardust Eye Make-up *H&B*

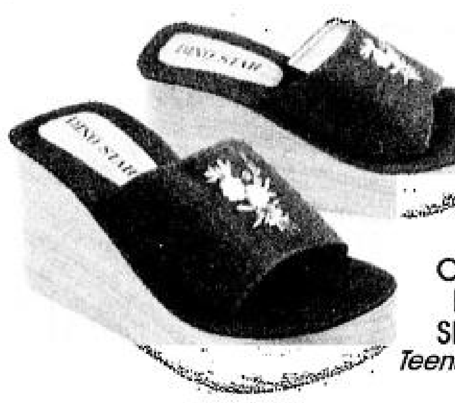


Structured Denim Bags

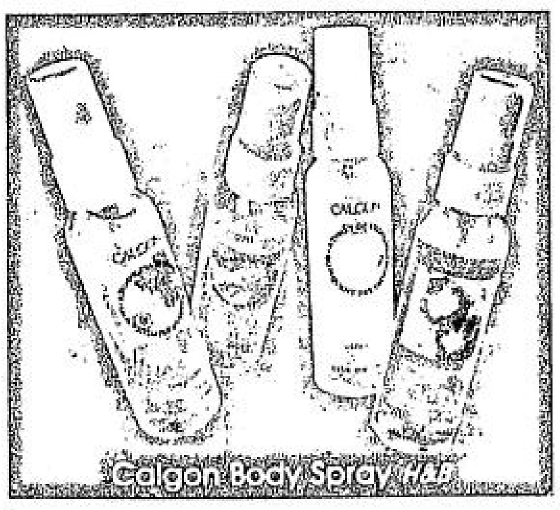


Two-layer Paper Tray *Stationery*

Denim Bag and Thong Slip-ons



Chunky Denim Slip-ons *Teens' Shoes*



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Shell Top and Jazz Pants

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Bracelets with Charms

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Goody Brush and Hair Accessories Sets

Village Naturals Bath & Shower Gels *H&B*

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G-mik Body Spray *H&B*

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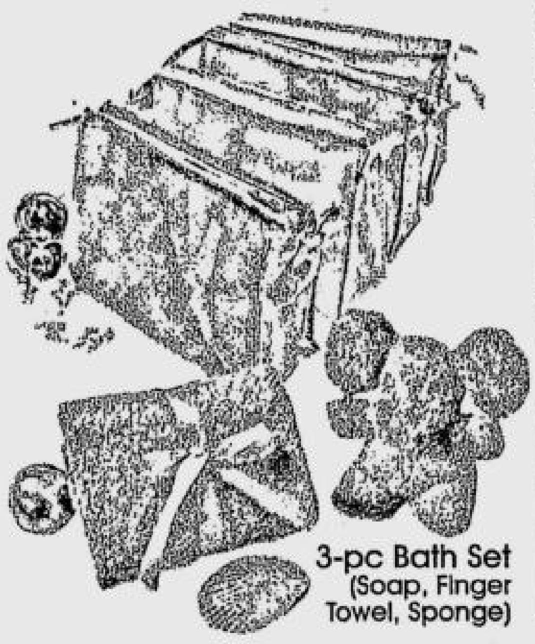

3-pc Bath Set
(Soap, Finger
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Bioxs Foaming Shower Gels
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Hair Care Sets

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Teens' Shoes

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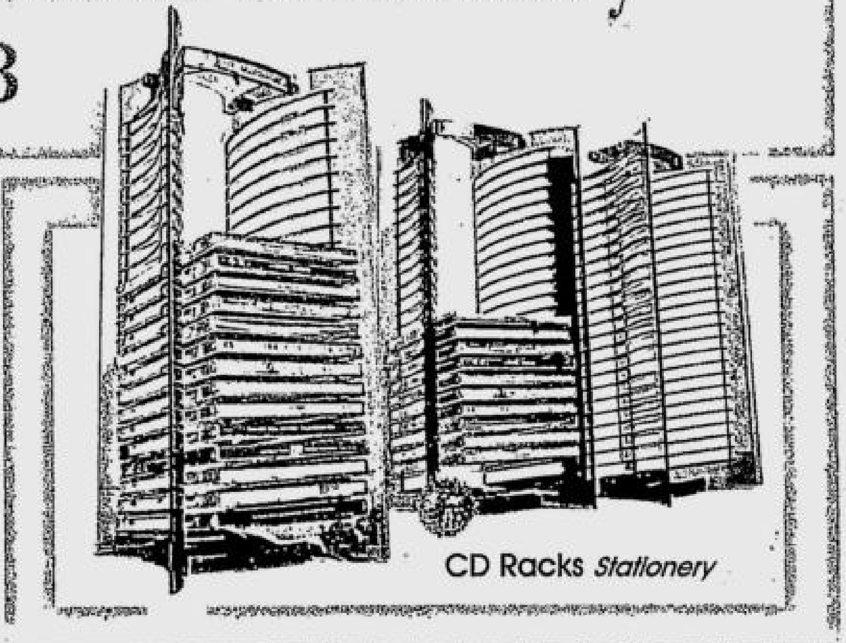

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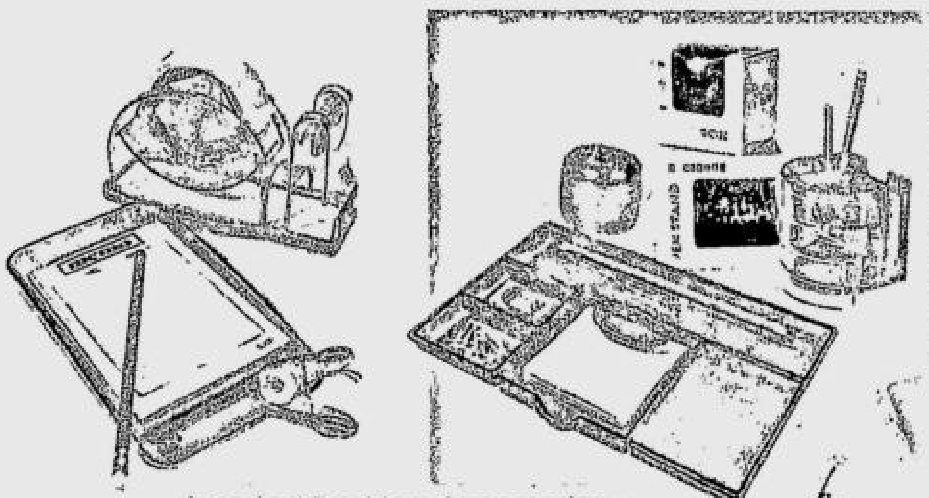
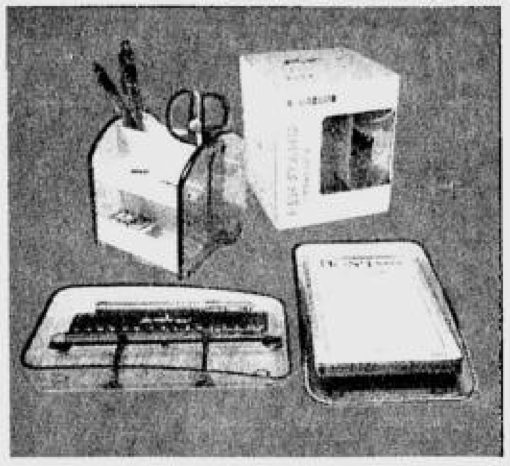
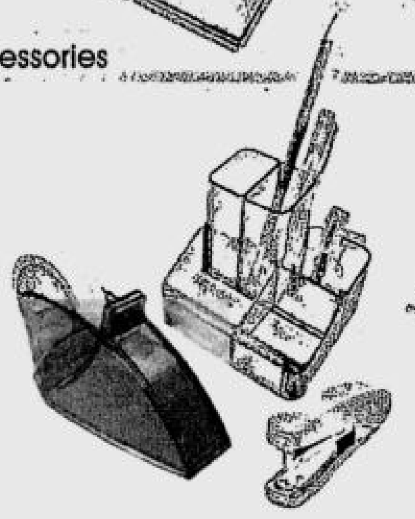
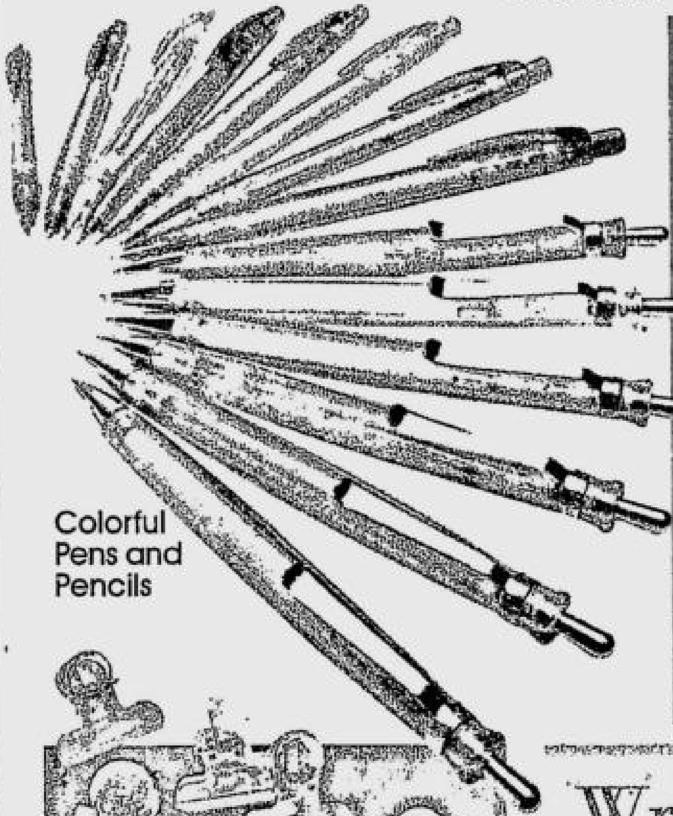

Assorted Desktop Accessories





Frosted Memo Kits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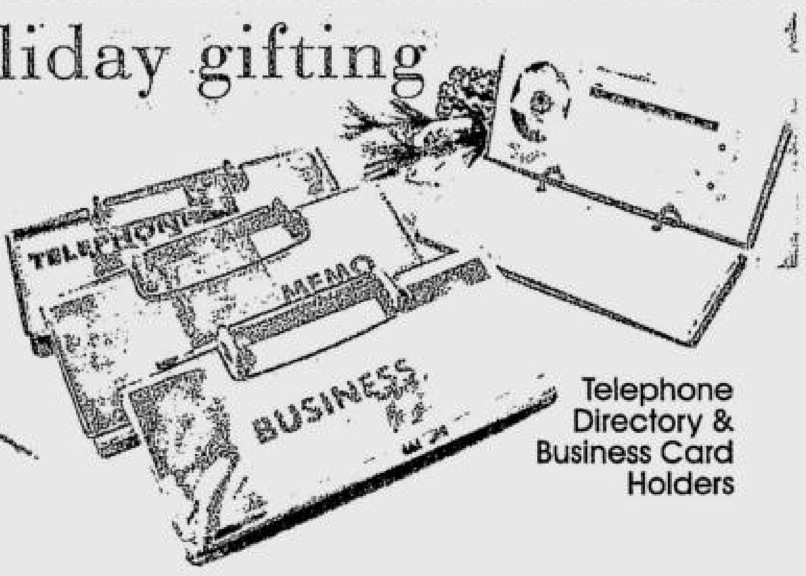
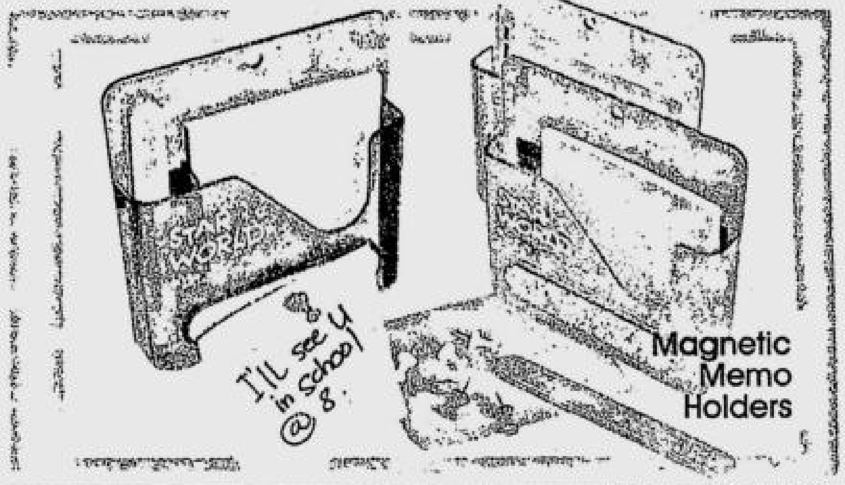
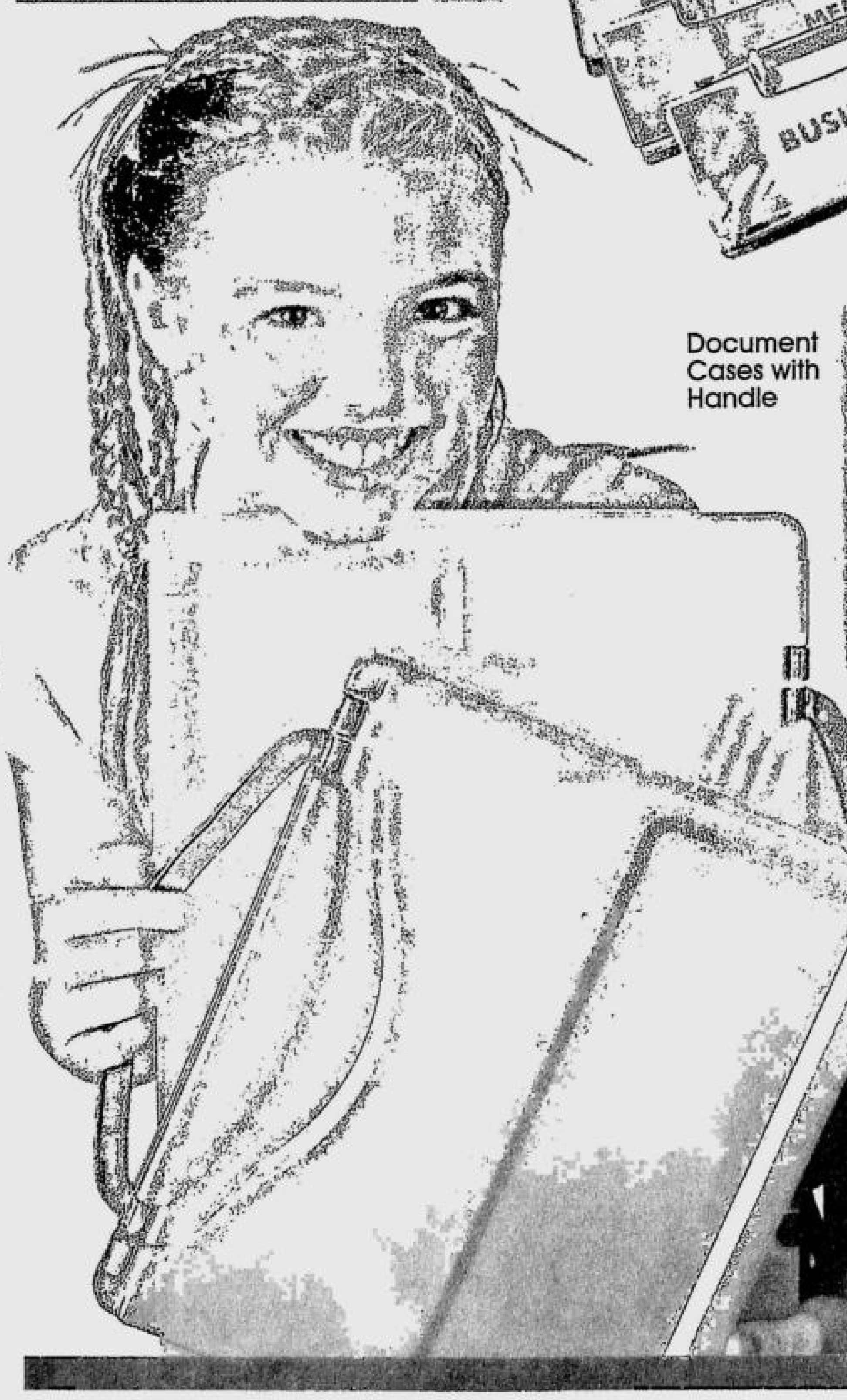
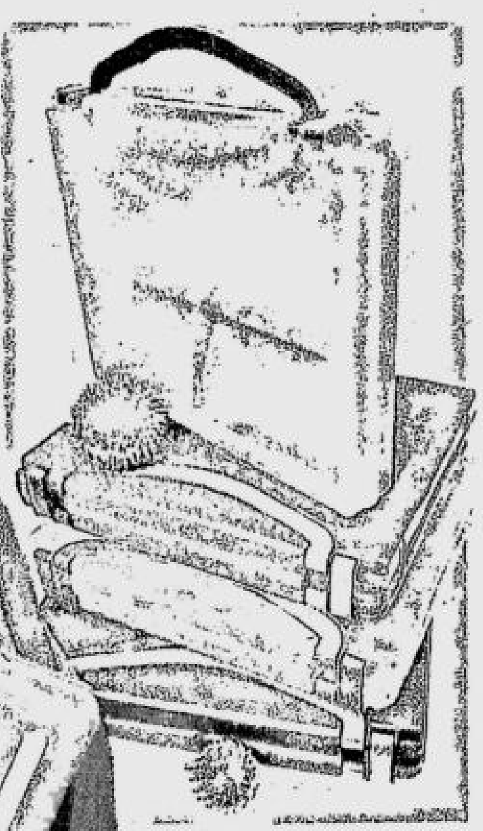


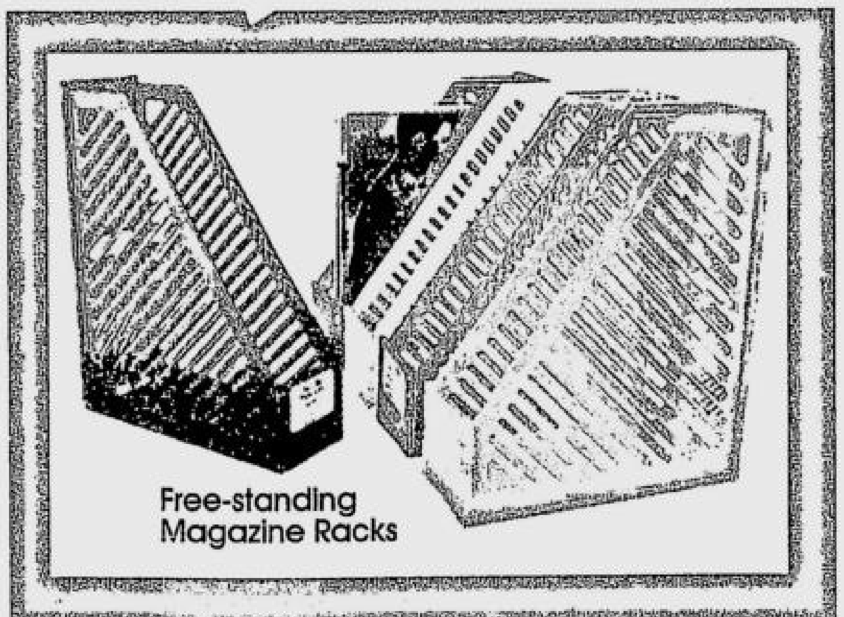
Telephone Directory & Business Card Holders

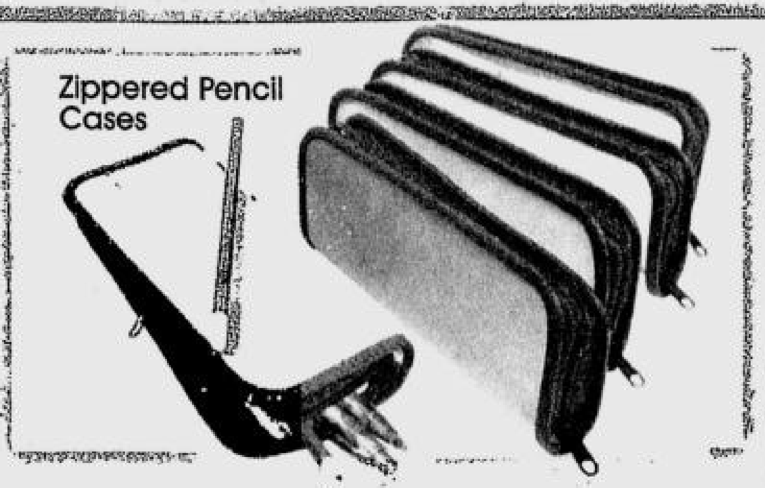


Magnetic Memo Holders




Document Cases with Handle


Free-standing Magazine Racks


Zippered Pencil Cases

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